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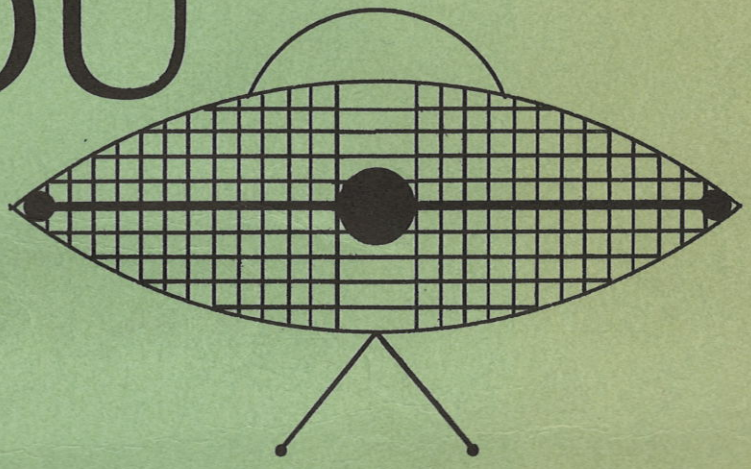
FLYING SAUCERS ARE WATCHING YOU



THE INCIDENT AT DEXTER AND THE INCREDIBLE MICHIGAN FLAP

JOHN C. SHERWOOD

WITH INTRODUCTION BY GRAY BARKER

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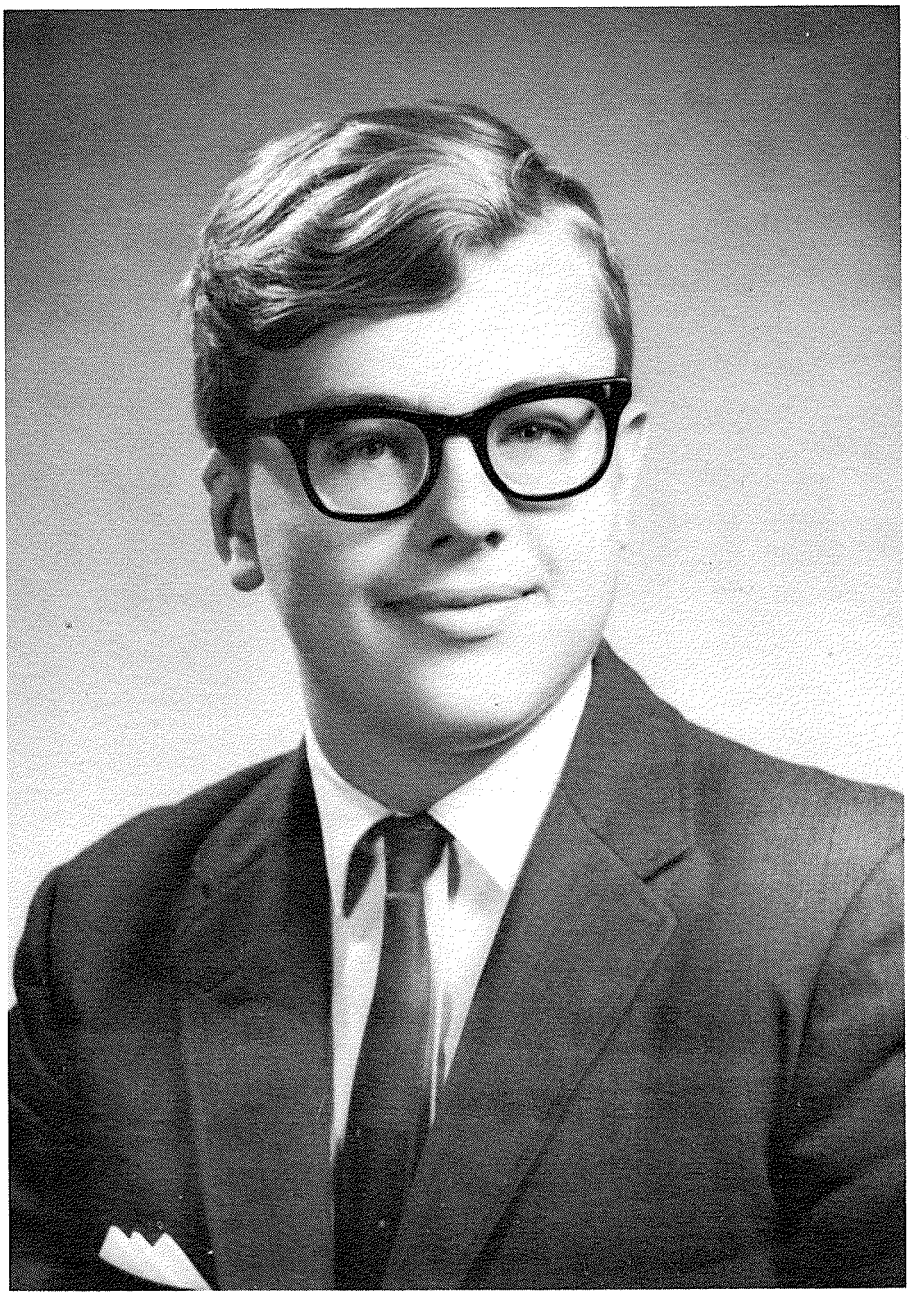

FLYING SAUCERS ARE WATCHING YOU

By JOHN C. SHERWOOD

ILLUSTRATED

SAUCERIAN BOOKS, CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

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Dedicated those fine people who factually reported what they saw. And to whoever or whatever flies the saucers, thanks for the material!

Introduction

In the summer of 1966 I, the editor of Saucerian Publications, received a thick manuscript through the mail from John C. Sherwood, of Marshall, Michigan.

Both the name, and the address, rang a loud bell. I had been corresponding with Sherwood off and on and had transmitted data to him and had received a great deal of material from him in return.

As to his address, the town of Marshall had been the center of an investigation I had made back in 1958. In that year three young itinerant fruit pickers had reported that one of the trio had almost been kidnaped near Marshall by a large hairy monster. Although their tale had been fantastic, I had found much to believe in their strange narrative.

I wondered what sort of material would be inside the package, marked "Book Manuscript." I did hope it would contain something refreshing, for we needed a different kind of book for a forthcoming release to our Charter Membership society.

The book certainly was no disappointment -- and it was DIFFERENT. Although a few of the incidents which took place around and near Dexter, Michigan, during the tremendous Michigan Flap in the Spring of 1966 had been published, here was a complete and definitive reporting of the entire fantastic business.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek had visited the scene on behalf of his

employer, the United States Air Force, and had come to the conclusion that key sightings had been caused by "swamp gas," a term which perhaps represented the flap most in the minds of the American public -- for his statement was publicized widely.

Few people believed him, however, and the Michigan Flap likely was the turning point in public opinion, whereby the man on the street finally accepted flying saucers as real. The "swamp gas" insult of his intelligence may have been a great contributing factor.

A Gallup Poll disclosed that 5% of the American public had actually seen flying saucers. Forty-six percent believed they were real, while 29% still think they are imaginary. Thirty-four percent of our population believes there are people like ourselves living on other planets; 46% do not believe. These figures, to a person such as myself -- who has observed public reaction over a period of many years, are indeed impressive. And they certainly indicate that public awareness of the UFO phenomena, and public acceptance of the evidence, is still increasing!

But the best thing about this book is not just that it is a complete and excellent report of this famous flap, but that it represents one of the two existing full reports of sighting concentrations. John Fuller had earlier done an excellent job in reporting fully on New England sightings in his book titled "INCIDENT AT EXETER." It was written for popular consumption, however, and certainly is not as objective as the present work.

"FLYING SAUCERS ARE WATCHING YOU" more fully approaches the status of being a definitive work. Not only does it provide excellent and entertaining reading for the "saucer buff," but it is a work which will be of tremendous interest and value to researchers in the years to come -- for it will give them a complete picture of a single "flap."

The various flaps in 1965 and 1966 marked what may be a climax in what seems to be a gradual survey of the United States and other countries. Why are the saucers watching us even more closely than ever? If they think and reason as we do, they probably are doing the same thing we are now doing on the Moon, and later will be doing on Mars and other planets: making scientific studies. Although many of these probes may employ unmanned vehicles, there is fairly definite proof that there are many instances of manned (or "Martianed"!) surveys.

During recent newspaper and television interviews in Atlanta,

Ga., the most frequent question asked me was "Why don't they contact us?"

Of course many people, including George Adamski, Howard Menger, and lately, a man in Parkersburg, W. Va., named Woodrow Derenberger, have claimed that the saucer people have actually contacted them.

As to an answer to "Why don't they land on the White House lawn?" that is even more of a puzzler to attempt to answer.

Actually (as I told an Atlanta reporter) they may be doing us a favor. Anthropologists know that primitive societies in Africa and Polynesia have had their cultures virtually destroyed by the advent of the white man. And then the saucers must operate on some sort of radically different kind of power -- maybe some sort of free-energy system of great cheapness. Suddenly landing and giving us a new form of power could temporarily disrupt our economy, which depends so much on the production of relatively expensive energy, from coal, gasoline and even atomic energy. They might also be afraid that a new technology might find its way into the hands of a political power block and enable it to terrorize or destroy the rest of the world.

One thing we like about Sherwood is that he reports the facts objectively and doesn't try to interpret them or speculate upon them, as is the bad habit of the undersigned. Sherwood leaves interpretation up to the individual reader.

I have tried to maintain this objective tone in the general design of this book. We have even passed up the beautiful drawings by our art editor, Gene Duplantier, in favor of printing the original rough drawings by the author. We have included other illustrative material into which no artistic imagination has been brought. By doing this we believe the book will have greater acceptance in the scientific and academic communities.

The objectivity and maturity of this work can, I believe, be even more greatly appreciated when we learn that Sherwood is not a college professor, a scientist, or even a full-grown adult. In fact he is still in his teens and has not yet graduated high school. With such a good start, what tremendous contributions he will likely make to the future of UFO research!

If you enjoy the book or have comments to make on it -- or both -- the author would appreciate a letter. Write him directly: John C. Sherwood, 120 W. Hanover, Marshall, Mich. 49068. Sending the letter in care of the publisher will only delay it's arrival.

I recommend that you study this book very carefully. Remember: Flying Saucers are watching me AND you. What they're up to, we cannot be sure, although the indication is that they mean us no harm. We cannot ever be absolutely certain, however, until we know more about them. This book will help you find out.

Gray Barker
1967

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Cover Design by Gene Duplantier

FRONTISPIECE: JOHN C. SHERWOOD

Foreword

It seems that I have been dubbed a clairvoyant of a sort--though I enthusiastically deny that I am not. If that statement needs explaining, I suppose that I should start at the beginning.

I became interested in odd occurrences about 1961, when I borrowed a book from a friend "just to see whether it was any good." That book was Frank Edwards' STRANGER THAN SCIENCE. I now own my own copy, plus its sequels, along with countless other such books. Up to and through 1965, I was only mildly interested in any happenstance dealing with UFOs, or "flying saucers" if you wish, even though I had experienced five sightings of such craft prior to that time.

However, in January of 1966, I suddenly became aware that there was more to this flying saucer business than what I had previously thought. I became so intensely enthralled with each new report that I knew that this would become a standard hobby with me for quite a long time to come.

It was for this reason that I organized the Michigan Investigators of the Flying Saucer Phenomenon in February of 1966. The group was small, but we stayed on our feet and began a study that was very comprehensive and completely serious.

Then it happened.

It was almost one month to the day of the forming of the MIFSP when the first report came. I had been looking through the afternoon paper, but I saw nothing out of the ordinary; it took my

grandmother to find it. She called me and said, "I guess that I've got to do your work for you. There's an article on a UFO in today's paper."

I found the newspaper again, now knowing what to look for. And there it was--a small, one-column report--ah, but it meant something! I took it as a sign from heaven: The MIFSP would succeed! I clipped out the article and saved it.

Three days later, a second sign appeared. Again it was a small, one-column report, but I clipped it out and saved it. From then on, it was a steady stream of upside-down tops, discs, footballs, and other miscellaneous interplanetary debris of all shapes and sizes.

But it stopped the same way it began: having slowly faded in, it slowly faded out. Since that happened, there have been many accounts of the Michigan saucer flap, few of them correct in their facts. It was for this reason that this book was written.

And I sure am glad I saved all those clippings.

Well, maybe I am clairvoyant!

J. C. Sherwood
July 17, 1966

Chapter One

Incident In Washtenaw County

ANN ARBOR (AP) - Monday, March 14, 1966 - The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department was flooded by calls early today from citizens and law enforcement agencies reporting sighting unidentified flying objects over southeastern lower Michigan.

Sheriff's deputies said Selfridge Air Force Base confirmed sighting the objects, but said the Air Force could not pick them up on radar.

Deputies Buford Bushroe and John Foster reported sighting a red and green object which moved up and down at high speed and stopped in the northwestern sky.

They said shortly after the first sighting, about 4 a.m., the object was joined by a second, similar object and that the two appeared to fly in formation.

Deputies said calls reporting sightings came from Monroe and Livingston (two counties bordering on Washtenaw, Livingston to the north, Monroe to the south--jcs) sheriff's departments and from Ypsilanti, Dexter and Sylvania, Ohio police departments.

Deputies then called Selfridge AFB where they said radar men reported being able to see the objects in the sky but were unable to pick them up on radar.

Bushroe and Foster said the two objects were finally joined by two more about 5:30 a.m. and that the four flew off together in a northwesterly direction.

"It was the strangest thing I have ever seen," said Bushroe.

Gerald Miller, Washtenaw County Civil Defense director, said an investigation of the sightings had been launched.

As we can plainly see, the Great Michigan Saucer Flap began far earlier than many believe.

But if it were that simple to tell! On April 3rd, I read in the Sunday edition that a UFO "study group" had been formed in Battle Creek, the famous "Cereal City." Since I lived in the city of Marshall, a scant 13 miles from Battle Creek, I decided to attend a few of these meetings.

I discovered that the group was being directed by the featured speaker, Mrs. Charlotte Blob, a saucer "contactee," working under the supervision of the George Adamski Foundation of Vista, California, and a Unit Director for the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America, a contactee-oriented organization.*

Before I proceed, I should mention that I am not a believer in contactees. I retain an open mind about it, but my research indicates that contacteeism, for the present, is an unexplored territory. I must have such an experience before I will believe.

It turned out that, according to Mrs. Blob (pronounced with a long "o"), that the Michigan flap began far sooner than the 14th of March. She proceeded to relate how she and Mrs. Hugh Spaulding of Battle Creek got together and wrote to many of the television stations in lower Michigan, telling them of the flying saucers and the alleged people who fly them. Mrs. Blob had told Mrs. Spaulding that the saucers would start to fly two to three days after the last letter was sent out. Mrs. Spaulding confirmed that the first report was three days after the last letter, as predicted.

All well and good, but as the two ladies said, their supposed "first report" would have had to take place on the 10th of the month, or even sooner. As far as I know, and as far as all other authorities know, the first report was on March 14, as described in the news article you have just read.

MINOR INCIDENT IN EATON COUNTY

In late April, a new fact came to our attention that may have proved Mrs. Blob's statement. It was approximately the last Saturday in April, about ten o'clock, when I received a call from a Mrs. Walter York, a professor's wife at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan. She asked me if she could attend one of our meetings, and perhaps give us the details of her sighting. I told her we were having a meeting that very afternoon, and that she would be most welcome.

---

*In UFO circles the term, "the contactee," denotes a person who claims to have met and talked with the saucer occupants.

After her arrival, we discussed the usual things, during which I found that she was most intelligent and extremely open-minded about everything, including contactees. She told us how she had remembered her sighting as a possible UFO case, and had written a very thorough account of it, a copy of which was given to us:

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to report a light seen in the sky by myself and two others on Sunday, March 13th at approximately some time between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m. We were a party of four; faculty members and wives of Olivet College in Eaton County. We were returning to Olivet from Union City and at the moment of our "sighting" were driving north on route 27 and were at some point between Coldwater and Marshall. I had my face pressed against the window and was looking out at the sky as I often do, being new to the West and fascinated at the large expanse of sky one sees here. I and those nearest the windows on the left side of the car saw all at once in the northwest what we all agree to have been a large, phosphorescent green light falling down fast at a slight angle. It would be extremely difficult for an untrained person to estimate the distance from us, height in the sky, speed of travel, shape and size of this light. It lasted only a few seconds, if that; and one could only say there were many miles stretching between us and the horizon. (Then too, although, it was relatively close to the earth.) There was still enough distance between to make it impossible, within such a short space of time, to establish any points of comparison such as hills and trees. Nor did we see its entire journey, as it fell behind clouds ringed along the lower sky. Nevertheless, I can say that it appeared roughly as a Fourth of July Roman Candle might when seen close by. Another guess is that it looked a bit more than half the size of the moon as it appears to us. It was made even more difficult to guess, as it had a glowing aura around its tip as it fell, as well as along the vivid path that streaked behind it. Also its translucent green light reflected onto surrounding diffused clouds, thereby rendering the whole lighted area progressively whiter towards the edges, and enlarging the total effect.

After I and my companions had exclaimed over what we had seen we made a point of estimating our approximate whereabouts with a view to reporting it. I do so now in hopes of contributing to the factual reports as apart from the fanciful, the speculative and the wishful sightings heard of so much these past weeks.

I am less than a scientist, but I know and believe what my own eyes have seen. To do so does not involve the holding of any theories about visitors from outer space--it merely involves trust in one's senses, in this case the sense of sight. The report that seemed most related to our experience came from Mr. Emile Grenier, an aeronautical engineer, who believed the phenomenon to be electronic. It seems to me most fortunate that such a well qualified scientist witnessed this light; would that more had! If he and Major Donald Keyhoe, who has made a thorough study of flying objects, pooled their respective knowledge and findings would we not get some great results?

--Mrs. Walter Wynn York
Olivet College
Olivet, Michigan

Making a serious attempt at a possible explanation for Mrs. York's sighting, we suggested it may have been a meteor of the type theorized by Donald H. Menzel, containing ices, and vaporizing when hitting the Earth's atmosphere. This would "account for the green color observed, (and) for the silent disappearance of the object....." Of course this was only one possible explanation, and the object may indeed have been a genuine flying saucer.

This new report put some doubt into our minds as to whether there may have been reports previous to this, but at this writing, we have heard of none.

SECOND INCIDENT IN WASHTENAW

ANN ARBOR (AP) - March 17, 1966 - Bright-colored unidentified flying objects were reported sighted over southeastern lower Michigan early today--the second such sighting this week.

Four Washtenaw County sheriff's deputies said they observed four objects between 4:00a.m. and 7:05 a. m. The officers, investigating a traffic accident about 12 miles west of Saline, said the objects hovered in the southern sky, moved up and down, and glowed in a variety of colors.

Deputies said they watched one of the objects with binoculars and described it as looking like a large top which, while hovering, glowed brightly in colors ranging from green to bright red.

The Milan Police Department said a similar object flew over Milan at an altitude of from 500 to 1,000 feet.

Washtenaw County deputies and officers in Livingston and Monroe counties and Sylvania, Ohio, reported seeing similar objects Monday.

"I didn't believe our deputies the other night, but I believe them now," said Deputy David Fitzpatrick.

Sgt. Nuel Schneider described the top-like object as "something out of these science fiction movies or on TV. You'd have to see it to believe it."

We will note that in this and the previous sighting made by the deputies, the UFOs looked the same, acted the same, appeared at the same time and in the same area. Essentially, then, they were the same objects. These objects were not seen again, hence, they could not have been natural objects appearing consistently, for they would have to be seen again because by this time, the populace was out a-huntin' for "them saucers". Well, then, what were they?

THIRD INCIDENT IN WASHTENAW

ANN ARBOR (AP) - Monday, March 21, 1966 - Unidentified objects caused a new flurry of excitement here Sunday night when several residents and police officers reported spotting mysterious aircraft.

It was the third report within two weeks in this southern Michigan area.

Patrolman Robert Huniwell, from nearby Dexter, told Washtenaw County Sheriff's officers one of the objects hovered about ten feet above his patrol car.

He said it resembled an airplane, had a waffle-like exterior and lights in the center and on its edges. He told officers the lights diffused toward the center of the craft when it accelerated.

Washtenaw Sheriff Douglas Harvey rushed several patrol cars to the area, about 12 miles northwest of here.

He said several of his deputies reported sighting the objects from two different locations.

Harvey said the deputies reported the objects flew up and down and did zooming banks, emitting a blue, light green and red lights.

Deputy John Foster, who reported a similar sighting last week, said he spent six years in the Strategic Air Command and "never saw anything move so fast."

He estimated the objects flew at 10,000 feet.

If you will now do me a favor, please re-read the above article; remember the date, the details, and the description. This will be of great service when you read the next chapter.

In this article we have the third reported sighting made by the police officers. As usual, the UFO disappears before the police arrive. These sightings were almost completely ignored in the months to come, especially the sighting of patrolman Huniwell. I consider this to be the important sighting of the three, for reasons brought out in the next chapter.

Since writing this chapter,

POSTSCRIPT: It has been brought out from my own private sources that there was a sighting made within the week prior to March 14! The incident took place in Tekonsha, Michigan, a small village about 15 miles south of Marshall.

The gentleman, whose name I cannot reveal, was driving along a local road, when he saw a saucer-shaped object flying across the sky, visible from where he was situated on the road. Lack of details prevents me from relating the description of the object, etc., but it was given to us that he attempted to report the event to the police. Upon phoning the department and telling them that he had just seen a flying saucer, he was given the typical brush-off by the chuckling officer.

I should say that by now, the good man has had his revenge!

Chapter Two

Incident At Dexter

ANN ARBOR (UPI) - Monday, March 22, 1966 - At least 40 persons saw an unidentified flying object land in a swamp near here Sunday night, police said today. Twelve of them were policemen.

Two sheriff's deputies said they saw eerie blinking lights--apparently on a flying object--rise above the trees, then dip again. Another policeman said he and other officers saw a formation of four or five flying objects. One passed right over his car, he said.

A farmer and his son said they approached within 500 yards of the object. It took off with a sound like a ricocheting bullet, they said.

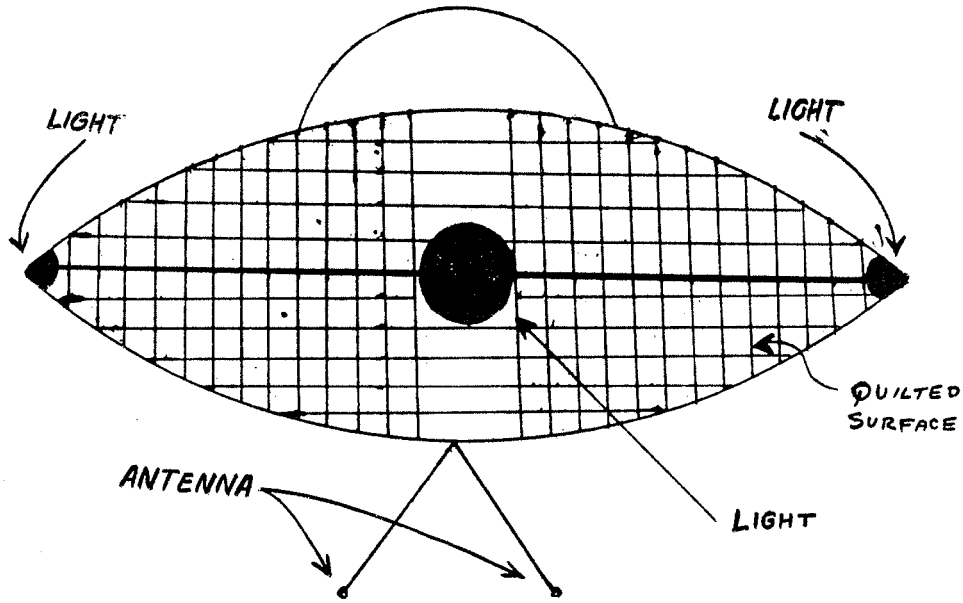
Six police cars chased the formation but the UFO's vanished.

Sixty See Objects

Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy Stanley McFadden said at least 60 persons saw the objects in the air or on the ground.

McFadden and deputy David Fitzpatrick left their car and slogged through the swamp about 12 miles northwest of here watching the object rise to treetop level, then sink down and apparently land.

A crowd of 40 to 50 people watched it on the ground, McFadden said. He said he, Fitzpatrick and most of the witnesses could see lights only because of the darkness.



INTERESTING COMPARISON

Above is the drawing made by Ronald Manor who got close to the object in the Michigan swamp. Note the amazing similarity between the drawing and the photo at the right. The photo has been retouched slightly to conform with the original photo in editor's files. Our proof copy for printing was too light and didn't show antenna. The saucers are beginning to be harder and harder for the AF to pooh-pooh!

S.S. Ramsey Photo. In December 1957, Mr. T. Fogl, while radio officer of the S.S. Ramsey, off the coast of California, about 2:30 p.m., was alerted by the Second Officer to come see a disc. According to the story, he grabbed his Yashica C reflex camera and ran to the bridge. A thick circular object with a flat dome and a pulsating red light on the bottom was visible in the distance. As it neared, Mr. Fogl managed a photograph before the UFO accelerated rapidly and disappeared toward the coast.

But Frank Mannor, 47, and his son, Ronald, 19, told police they ran through the swamp within 500 yards of the object. They drew a picture of the object and described it as the shape of a football, made of waffled material, with blinking lights and antennas.

Horrible Thing

Mannor said the object took off when his son said to him, "Look at that horrible thing there, dad!"

"I went out there and I saw these lights on the ground, " McFadden said. "It appeared it would go up about tree top level and then go down again.

"Me and deputy Fitzpatrick went back to check. There were probably 40 to 50 people watching it. At least 12 officers were watching it.

"It had a red and green light, one light on each side, and a white reddish glow in the center. Mannor and his son said it was like two elliptical bowls cupped together, with a globe on the top, brownish in color, with a waffle skin.

Ricocheting Sound

"When we got there they (the crowd) said it left. They (Mannors) said it made a ricocheting sound when it took off.

"Forty or 50 people saw it land."

Patrolman Robert Huniwell of nearby Dexter, a small village, said one of the objects passed over his car as he and other officers rushed to the scene.

Selfridge Air Force Base near Detroit, about 50 miles from here, referred callers to the Detroit Air Defense Sector Headquarters in Battle Creek. Telephones were not answered at the sector's public information office and a secretary said the base commander was out.

You will notice that the incident of Patrolman Huniwell took place before he arrived in the area of the swamp. You will also note that the descriptions of the two objects are, in general, the same. This is another fact that I would like you to remember for later consideration.

Seeking more information on the Frank Mannor sighting, as it is now referred to, I came across this account, dated Tuesday, March 22, 1966, in the Detroit Free Press:

DEXTER - Washtenaw County Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey went out looking for flying saucers Monday night.

"I don't know what I'll do if I find one," Harvey admitted. "Maybe arrest the pilot for trespassing. Tell you the truth, it scares me a little."

Harvey has never seen a flying saucer. But at least eight of his own deputies have in the last week, and officers from neighboring towns and several sober citizens have deluged Harvey's office with eye-witness reports.

The man who got the closest look was Frank Mannor, 47, who rents a farm house at the end of McGuiness Road outside Dexter.

Mannor and his 19-year-old son ran into a swamp behind their house Sunday night to watch a mysterious object hover just off the ground, then rocket away at their approach.

About 7;30 p.m.," Mannor said, "we saw this thing like a ball of fire, maybe more like a shooting star, come out of the West, then drop below a clump of trees maybe half a mile behind the house.

"Me and Ronnie decided to come down for a look. My wife, Leona, kicked up an awful fuss. Said we might get radioactive. I asked my two sons-in-law to come, but their wives wouldn't let them.

"We didn't carry no lights or guns. But we know the area. Go hunting there all the time.

"We came over that knoll, and there it was, about eye-level with us, no more than 500 yards away. It had a blue light in front, and in the back a light that kept changing from red to white, like it was rotating. Kind of like the light on a police car.

"It was almost flat on the bottom, and kind of high and peaked on top. We couldn't see much except the outline and the lights at the ends, because the whole thing was wrapped in a light like a halo, and it kept shimmering. It was like watching something across the desert. You know how the heat waves keep changing what you see.

"Ronnie said 'Look at that horrible thing there!' And just like that it was gone. We went down into the swamp, but there was nothing. No smell of exhause. Nothing.

"And I know what I saw. It wasn't fox fire, or St. Elmo's fire (fires caused by natural gas) or anything like that. It was an object.

"And I don't care who believes me.

"I believe me."...

....Some of Sunday night's witnesses said they saw two saucers servicing the one that dropped behind Mannor's farm. Mannor reported seeing only the one.

Their report reads:

"While policing an accident on U.S.-12 west of Saline about two miles, we seen three different objects in the

sky to the south of us. Two of these objects were close together and the other farther to the east. On one of these objects we could see on one side white light and the other a green light.

"When we completed the accident, we headed south towards Milan on Marion Road. At this time we stopped the patrol car and looked back to the west and at the same time looked toward the east and seen a real bright object hovering over what looked like US-23. We took some pictures of this object on a time camera; unknown if this will work or not.

(Note--this photo is not to be confused with the now famous picture taken earlier by Deputy Fitzpatrick that showed two streaks in the sky; this will be discussed in a forthcoming chapter--jcs).

"We then drove to Arkona and Carpenter Roads and Deputy Hennes let us use his field glasses. At this time we seen this strange object and some colors. The top of it was yellowish green-blue, and the bottom bright red with what looked like black marks across it.

"The object itself looked like a toy top. When at above location, were about five to ten miles from this object.

"This seems very unbelievable and something right out of these science fiction movies on TV."

Col. Fredrick Davids, Commander of the Michigan State Police, said Monday that he intends to launch an investigation into the sightings.

"I used to discount these reports," he said, "but now I'm not so sure."

Now, what do we have?

(A) Several deputies and patrolmen seeing unidentified flying objects.

(B) A UFO hovering over a patrol car long enough to be seen and later described.

(C) A UFO zooming over a farmhouse, landing in a swamp, and taking off with "a ricocheting sound."

(D) Other patrolmen seeing perhaps the same object along with others at approximately the same time; the objects being high in the sky.

(E) Descriptions of UFO in cases b and c corresponding.

These are five points to remember when reading the next few chapters.

SECOND INCIDENT IN A SWAMP

HILLSDALE (UPI) - Tuesday, March 22, 1966 - A county civil defense director and 87 college coeds said today they watched an eerie, hovering flying object settle in a swampt hollow near a school dormitory Monday night.

William Van Horn, 41, Hillsdale County civil defense director for 10 years, said he watched the unidentified object through binoculars for three hours.

It was the second straight night a large number of witnesses reported seeing weird unidentified flying objects in southern Michigan. Sunday night a dozen policemen and at least 40 other persons watched a similar object, guarded by four similar objects, land in a swamp about 45 miles northeast of here near Ann Arbor.

The Air Force announced it was calling in Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's UFO study program, to investigate the rash of sightings.

Hynek will work from Selfridge Air Force Base near Mount Clemens, the Air Force said.

Van Horn said he joined the 87 Hillsdale College coeds and their housemother to watch the object. He said it emmitted wavering orange, red and white lights and appeared to hover just above the swamp some 1,000 to 1,500 yards from the dormitory.

"It was definitely some kind of vehicle," Van Horn said. It changed from orange to red, perhaps with a rotating light of some kind, and had a white light at one end.

From all appearances it did not seem to be sitting on the ground as it moved back and forth across the ground, he said.

Thunderstorms lashed the area as Van Horn and the college girls watched from a second floor dormitory window. Police sent three squad cars but the officers reported the object was not visible from the road.

Van Horn said he saw three similar objects in the air Friday night. He said William Vincent, coordinator of a ham radio club of some 40 youths, has reported several UFO sightings in this area during the past ten days.

Van Horn said he could not establish the object's shape.

"Through the glasses it was either round or oblong," he said. "I think that what makes the light on these things change colors is that they are rotating in a circular motion."

Van Horn was called by the girls at the dormitory.

The coeds reported the object alternately glowed red, white, blue and other colors.

They said it rose up and down, appearing to stop its ascent and sink again just when it was about to move into the glow from a nearby airport beacon light.

Its vertical and horizontal movements were too fast for any airplane, the girls said.

The announcement that Hynek was being called in came from Selfridge, a base near Detroit which dodged newsmen's inquiries Monday about the object seen in a swamp near Ann Arbor.

Hynek's role is scientific consultant to the Air Force's "Project Blue Book," the official label of the Air Force program to track down reports of unidentified flying objects.

Authorities and crowds of curious residents braved thundershowers Monday night to comb the swampy area near Ann Arbor where the object was seen Sunday.

And thus we add point Number six: Two objects, similar in appearance, similar in nature, and similar in their refusal to let anyone come close, are spotted two nights in a row. Similar objects showing up on consecutive nights are a far cry from the average.

By then it was time for news media and the Air Force to start explaining the incidents--and on the same day that the preceeding article was published, the first such attempt was made:

CHARLOTTE - The First Baptist Church here, which released 300 helium balloons March 13 inviting people to attend Sunday school, reports the balloons are being found as far away as Lakewood, Ohio.

The balloons were about one foot in diameter, a spokesman said, and were of various colors.

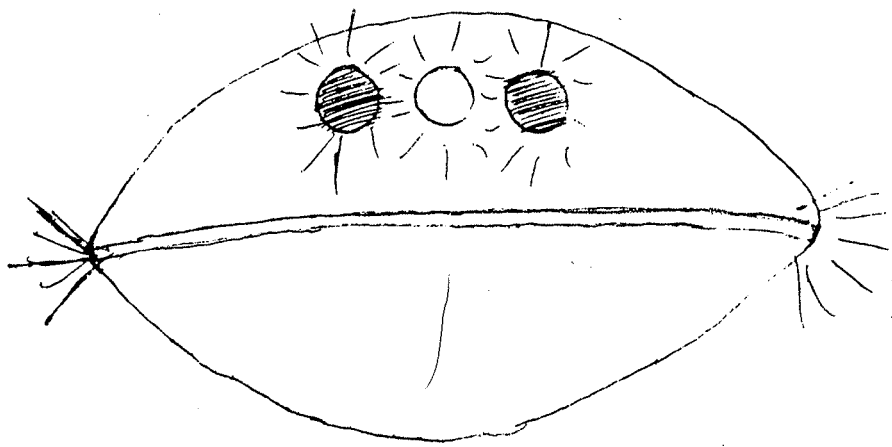
Charlotte is about 60 miles from the area near Ann Arbor where unidentified flying objects were reported.

Let's examine this: First, helium balloons do not hover: they either move along with the wind or continue rising straight up, until they begin losing their helium and descend, where they might be mistaken for UFOs, but only during the daytime. Balloons of this nature could not be seen at night, unless they were lit up in some impossible way, and since all of the reports studied so far occurred at night, this explanation must be ruled out.

Of course, the usual types of explanation followed--the tried-

and-seldom-true ones--mass hysteria, hoax, just plain too-fantastic-to-be-true, etc. But this didn't explain it to anyone's satisfaction, except perhaps to the person who explained it. And neither did the explanation that turned up that week...

SUSAN MERRIL'S SAUCER



Above: Authors rough drawing of object seen by Susan Merril, as described in the following chapter.

Chapter Three

Incident of the Swamp Gas

By Wednesday, March 23, the news came that the phenomenon was being investigated. We heard accounts of how J. Allen Hynek "pulled on his hip boots...and waded into a swamp where a glowing object reportedly landed..." We read editorials about how "Investigating the mystery makes UFOs the more fun," and we continued reading the reports of witnesses who had the courage to face the oncoming ridicule and report their sighting:

> HILLSDALE (AP) - March 24, 1966 - Additional reports of mysterious flying objects over Hillsdale were being investigated today--a continuation of week-long stories of strange objects in the night skies.
>
> Wednesday's reports came from two local residents who said the objects, one red and orange, the other blue and green, moved across the sky at high speeds.
>
> Mrs. Larry Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo LoPresto and 12-year-old Susan Merrill said the objects appeared between 9:00 and 9:30 p. m. and hovered momentarily before the lights went out.
>
> One of the objects had no distinct outline, the witnesses said, but Susan said the other was shaped like a football. She said there was a strong wind and snow flurries at the time.

Meanwhile, Frank Mannor had been plagued with the vandalism of so-called "curiosity seekers" who began shouting insults at him and destroying his property. Later an attempted breaking and entering of his home occurred with only his children in the house.

Mannor later told newsmen that he was "sick of this whole thing." He also said that even if a saucer would land next to his house, and a little man would step out, he would never tell a soul about it!

Other reports came in, several of doubtful authenticity. But the real limelight was stolen by the newest and most "probable" explanation: swamp gas. This was first hinted at on Thursday, but full details of the theory and the story behind it would not come until Saturday.

In the meantime, a photograph taken by Deputy David Fitzpatrick on March 17th was publicized. The photo showed two objects, apparently hovering in the sky. The objects, one long and thin, the other just as long but thicker, were parallel to each other and tilted about 45 degrees to the ground. A light, perhaps a streetlamp, glows brightly on the horizon. The picture was taken with a subminiature camera with a film that required special processing, explaining the long delay in its release.

Also, new reports came in:

HILLSDALE (UPI) - Thursday, March 24, 1966 - Hillsdale County Sheriff's deputies also were out searching for reported UFOs Wednesday night but they...found no trace of any such objects.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Peck said Wednesday they saw what appeared to be an unidentified flying object near their home north of Alpena Tuesday night.

They said the object, which appeared to be a bright light, darted around in various directions with bursts of speed.

Other persons in Holland, Mich., said they saw what appeared to be UFOs Wednesday night.

ASSOCIATED PRESS - Friday, March 25, 1966 - The new sighting of an unidentified flying object near Holland, Michigan, came from both Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nichols, who live near Saugatuck. They said it flew across a highway ahead of them in plain view, no more than 150 to 200 feet high.

Nichols, 24, said the object appeared about half the size of an automobile and was "a round circle glowing red on the inside and white on the outside."

Nichols added he was absolutely certain about one thing, "It sure didn't look like any airplane."

He said he called Holland police, who in turn notified the Allegan County Sheriff's department.

Deputy Rudy Whitney said a search in darkness turned up nothing unusual. Deputies were alerted at 6:15 p.m. Another search was planned for today.

Nichols' description fits roughly that given by several of more than a score who have reported sightings in the Ann Arbor area in the last 10 days.

BATTLE CREEK INQUIRER AND NEWS - Friday, March 25, 1966 - A strange object in the western sky was sighted last night by two Pennfield Township residents.

Ronald J. Hall, 22, of 1917 N. E. Capital Ave., said he saw a triangular object in the sky to the west of his home between 9:00 and 9:15 p.m. His home is about a mile north of Bailey Park.

Mr. Hall described the object as "white and glowing." He said it appeared to be solid and seemed to be hovering in the air.

He called to his sister Sharon, 18, who was in the house. From a window in her bedroom she watched the object for five to ten seconds, according to Ronald.

"All of a sudden it darted across the sky to the northeast, giving off four consecutive flashes of white light," Mr. Hall said. Then it disappeared. He said he watched it for approximately 30 seconds.

Mr. Hall said the object was like nothing he had ever seen before. He could not estimate its size or distance.

(UPI) - Friday, March 25, 1966 - Six other persons in Jonesville, about five miles to the north of Hillsdale, reported seeing the same object at about the same time as the Hillsdale campus sighting Wednesday night.

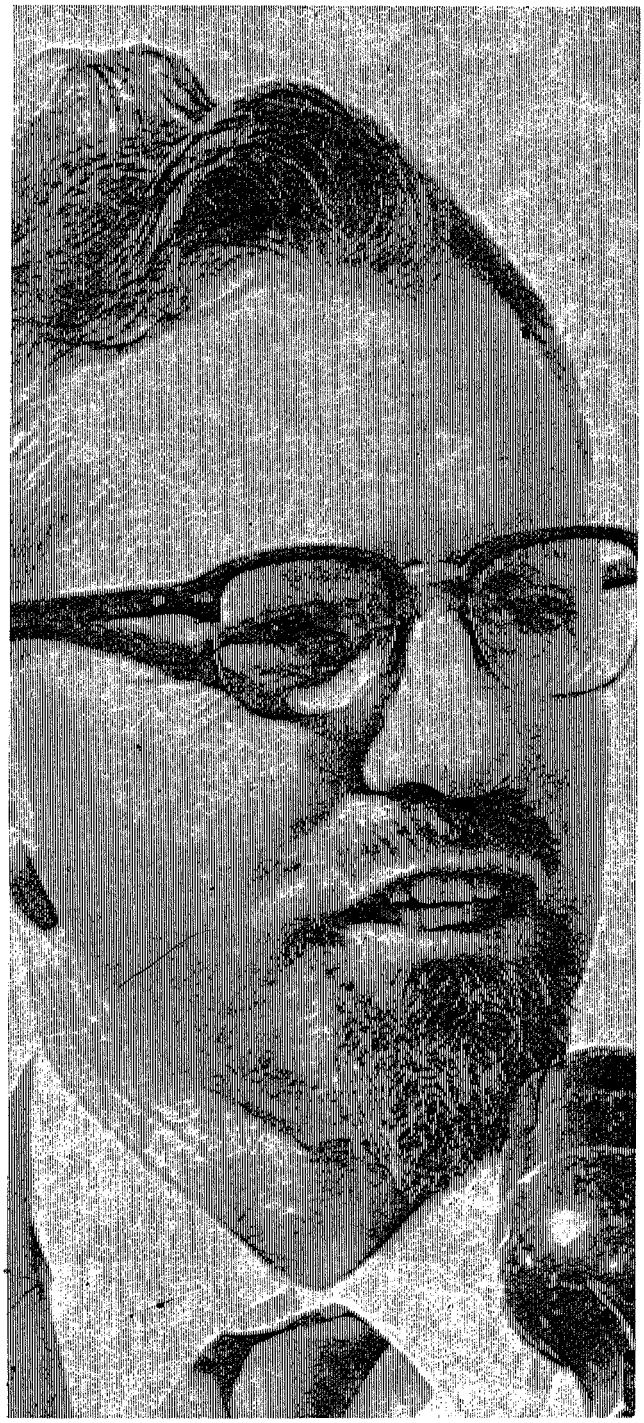
Thursday night four squad cars of deputies from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department watched lights "very high in the sky" for nearly 45 minutes just five miles southeast of the spot where more than 40 persons sighted an object Sunday night...

The Wednesday night sightings in Hillsdale were descriptions of a bright red ball-like object which blinked steadily and was noiseless. The descriptions of the Jonesville area were very similar.

Two policemen were among the viewers of the object at Hillsdale. They said they saw what they described as a street light seen through a fog.

Other sightings were reported in the Hillsdale and Ann Arbor areas the past few days but most were thought to be high-flying airplanes or other lights.

Two Hillsdale college students, Gerald High and Tom



DR. HYNEK, pictured above, has been challenged by James W. Moseley, editor of SAUCER NEWS. In a lecture before the Congress of Scientific Ufology in Cleveland, Ohio, he charged that the "swamp gas" explanation was made on orders by the Air Force and that the thing was a deliberate cover-up.

Kesler, Thursday night reported following a red ball east from the campus. They said there was no noise, but when they approached the object in their car with their lights on, the object moved away very erratically and quickly...

It was evident that more and more people had begun to see the UFOs. Skeptics claimed that it had merely become a new fad to "see" a flying saucer, or that more people were looking up and misinterpreting more natural objects.

But it was also evident that the reports were consistent in their descriptions of the phenomena, which seemed to rule out the natural object explanation.

The Incident Takes Place

DETROIT (AP) - Saturday, March 26, 1966 - A special Air Force investigator said Friday that numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects in the southern Michigan skies were probably the result of swamp gases and not visitors from outer space.

"I emphasize that I cannot prove in a court of law, that this is the full explanation of these sightings," said Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a scientific consultant for the Air Force who was brought to Michigan to investigate a week-long series of reports of mysterious celestial objects.

"It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter--an unusually mild one in this area--and the particular weather conditions were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display."

Hynek added that photos released to the press showing two lights were "without question" trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising moon and the planet Venus (Note--having consulted on this, I have found that this is not only possible, but exceedingly probable, even more so when Deputy Fitzpatrick admitted earlier to holding the time exposure open for ten to twelve minutes, not intending to produce what it did--jcs).

Hynek said the photos were taken March 17 near Milan, Mich., about 25 miles southwest of Detroit, and have no reference to the sightings at Hillsdale, to the north, on March 21.

Hynek noted that most of the sightings were near a swamp.

"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space," Hynek said.

"It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours or where a soundless secret device would likely be tested."

Most witnesses to the flying objects described them as having glowing lights, some red, green and yellow and appearing to move sideways and move a short distance.

Hynek said that such a sight is not to be seen frequently and as a matter of fact is of a unique character.

"I have never seen it myself," he said, "and I can easily understand the dismay of the witnesses who saw it and who sincerely and accurately described what they saw."

Hynek said it seemed likely that present spring thaws released trapped gases resulting from decomposition of organic materials.

"It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with swamps in these particular cases is more than coincidence," Hynek declared...

In regard to Mr. Hynek's explanation, it would be well to study the following account of Dr. Hynek's discussion:

The Detroit Press Club was jammed with newsmen on Friday, March 25 when Dr. Hynek faced a battery of television cameras and presented his findings on the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings.

"I have had time to determine that in Hillsdale, over and above the sincere and honest reporting of the young ladies at Hillsdale College of a very puzzling sighting, certain young men have played pranks with flares," he said.

And as to photographs published the previous day of a sighting at Milan, Mich., on March 17, he said, "They were trails made as the result of a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus."

He then commented on the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings in detail:

"The majority of observers in both cases have reported only lights--red, yellow and green, silent glowing lights near the ground. They have not described an object. Even the only two observers who did describe an object have stated they were no closer than 500 yards--better than a quarter of a mile away--a distance which does not allow details to be determined." (Further information later on this--jcs)

Dr. Hynek said witnesses pin-pointed the glowing lights in both cases in swamps and remarked, "A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for visitors from outer space! It is not a place where a helicopter would

hover for several hours, or where a soundless secret device would be likely to be tested."

The astrophysicist quoted from the Dutch astronomer Minnaert's Light and Color in the Open Air in which he describes lights resembling tiny flames, sometimes on the ground, sometimes floating above it. Sometimes red, yellow or blue-green, he said, they are flames that go out in one place and appear in another, giving the appearance of motion. They give off no heat and do not char the ground. They may stay the whole night, he said, with "usually no sound, except the popping sound of little explosions, such as when a gas burner ignites."

Dr. Hynek's written statement did not explain the screeching and siren-like noises reported by witnesses. And the Mannor description of the spacecraft, or whatever, was dismissed in the statement by the conclusion that 500 yards was too great a distance from which to see anything in detail.

The scientist said rotting vegetation in the swamp produces a marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and released when a spring thaw occurs. The flame that sometimes results is a chemical luminescence and of low temperature.

"The glowing lights on the swamp near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two to three hours. No sounds were heard, except for popping sounds. The lights were red, green or yellow and they appeared to move sideways and to rise a short distance," the Air Force investigator reported.

"It seems likely that as the present spring thaw came, the trapped gases, CH_4, H_2S, and PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic materials, were released."

Dr. Hynek, quoting from a chemistry book, said the phosphine (PH_3) in air usually bursts into flame, apparently ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impurity P_2H_4, and that other gases in the swamp could then be ignited.

"It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with the swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence," he said. "No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. The glow was localized there.

"Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp as visible through the tree. He stated that the lights brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do--smoothly and slowly. The girls at Hillsdale described the identical thing. This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas."*

Before we analyze Dr. Hynek's statements, read the following opinions expressed by Dr. Isaac Asimov, famed science writer:

> ...Forty people saw lights over swamps. Sure. Why not?
>
> Lights over swamps have been seen as long as mankind has had eyes to see. In the old days, we used to call them "will-o-the-wisps" and wise old men explained that they were evil or mischievous spirits who lured men into the depths of the swamp and left them there to die.
>
> There are chemical explanations of such lights over swamps nowadays, but such explanations don't remove the lights.
>
> The lights are still seen, but there have been cultural changes, and the interpretations alter accordingly. Who would talk about evil spirits now? That's unscientific. Nowadays, spaceships are the rage, so all will-o-the-wisps have become spaceships.**

Before we start the analysis, I must say that I have the utmost respect for Dr. Hynek. He is a competent scientist, obviously, or else the Air Force would not have chosen him to be their advisor on these matters; they cannot afford giving a cheap explanation. And this is what has happened.

I must admit that the marsh gas explanation is a good one, but when applied only to one case: the Hillsdale College sighting.

Already, Dr. Hynek has admitted that his theory applies only to the two most reported sightings, the Mannor case along with the Hillsdale report. The mistake in explaining the Mannor case lies in something Dr. Hynek stated himself. But we'll begin with something that he said that is true.

Dr. Hynek said that the "only two observers who did describe an object have stated they were no closer than 500 yards...a distance which does not allow details to be determined." This is quite true. For those flying saucer addicts who refuse to believe this, try it yourself: on a dark night, recreating the conditions of the night of the Mannor sighting, get someone to drive down a road for about 3/10 of a mile, turn around and shine his headlights toward you. You will plainly see that all the Mannors could have seen at that distance is a big glare, since part of the description of the object was that it was about the size of a car.

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*Mark Carpenter, "The Great UFO Flap at Ann Arbor," Fate, July, 1966.

** Isaac Asimov, "UFO's--What I Think," Science Digest, June, 1966.

However, you will remember that Mannor said that he saw "this thing like a ball of fire, maybe more like a shooting star, come out of the West, then drop below a clump of trees maybe half a mile behind the house." Unless I am greatly mistaken, "swamp gas" does not behave in this manner. Dr. Hynek made no attempt to explain this, either because he felt that it didn't need to be explained, or the terrible alternative, that it couldn't be explained.

Maybe it was a meteor that Mannor saw over his farm, and perhaps it was swamp gas that he and his son saw in the marsh. But the two objects must have been similar in nature, or Mannor would not have thought them to be the same object. Besides, the sudden appearance of two like objects at the same time, one in the air and one on the ground, just doesn't usually happen.

Neither do I know of any time when Patrolman Huniwell and Mr. Mannor got together and collaborated on the descriptions. You will remember that their description of the object were extremely similar. Huniwell stated that a UFO hovered over his patrol car just before he went to the Mannor farm. If Mannor described the 'meteor' that might have been what went over his farm, then it must have been the same 'meteor' that hovered over the patrolman's car! Common sense tells us that this is impossible.

This shows that Hynek was either wrong or uninformed when he made the statement that "no group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps." Of course no group did, but, if you remember the preceding articles, enough separate people did to make up a sizeable group.

Oddly enough, as evidence shows, the swamp gas most likely fits the sighting of the following night at Hillsdale. As we have already read, the popping sounds, the colors, the actions, and the fact that no one saw it come or go all add up to one thing:most likely swamp gas. It was either this or that "certain young men...played pranks with flares," as Hynek said.

The only discrepancies were the facts that the light vanished when cars approached, and the finding of a mysterious football-shaped ring etched in the ground where the object supposedly hovered. This, still, can be attributed again to flare-wielding pranksters. A second item that may be of value was publicized later by Van Horn, and shall be dealt with later.

And so, thus came the incident of the swamp gas, which proved too much of a good thing. It wasn't long afterwards that the scientists found that very few were paying any attention to the theory, in fact, it was the following day.....

POSTSCRIPT: There is apparently some controversy as to the actual authenticity of the photo referred to in the preceeding chapter. The now-famous photo of the two streaks in the sky was displayed on television in an interview with the two deputies who witness the sighting that night. No doubt that they saw <u>something</u>, but their discription was in referrence to <u>triangular</u> objects, and not of the shape as seen in the photo. Probably these men were quite excited, and took the odd shapes that appeared on the impression for what they saw in the sky.

That's one thing. Here's another: There is one source saying that the moon rose <u>after</u> the photo was taken, ruling out the possibility that the moon could have appeared on the film. This source places the time of the moon's rising that night as 3:37 (or 3:39) a.m., and the time of the taking of the photo at 3:30 P.M. This was an erroneous statement to make, for the picture was actually taken at 5:30 a.m., giving the moon enough time to get into position for the shot.

My deepest sympathy to all who yet believe that the photo was legitamate, but for once I'll go along with the explainers.

Chapter Four

More Incidents In Lower Michigan

ANN ARBOR (AP) - Sunday, March 27, 1966 - An aeronautical engineer said Saturday he saw an unidentified flying object near Ann Arbor Friday night and added, "I have a distinct feeling that this was an electronic phenomenon."

Emile Grenier, 55, said he watched a "brilliant light in the sky" for about two minutes as it performed what he described as "an impossible maneuver" and apparently settled into a grove of trees near the Veterans Administration Hospital just outside Ann Arbor.

Grenier, who lived nearby, estimated the light was traveling at between 150 and 200 miles an hour, "then came to an instant stop." He said it performed other maneuvers very unlikely for an aircraft.

Lawrence Espey, a University of Michigan physiologist driving by, said he saw essentially the same thing.

"I have a distinct feeling that this was an electronic phenomenon," Grenier said. "I know of nothing that could cancel mass as this thing obviously did from the speed of a small airplane to zero instantly."

The area where the object was reported is less than a quarter of a mile from the University of Michigan's nuclear and space laboratory.

Friday, a special investigator for the Air Force blamed at least two Washtenaw County sightings he investigated on marsh gas.

ANN ARBOR (AP) - Tuesday, March 29, 1966 - New reports of strange lights added today to the mystery of unidentified flying objects in Michigan skies.

Some 30 persons--including an off-duty deputy--phoned the Washtenaw County sheriff's office last night to report seeing objects overhead in the Ann Arbor area with flashing red, white, and green lights.

At about the same time, police agencies in Bad Axe, some 150 miles north, also were swamped with calls from residents who said they saw similar flying objects. Other reports came in from the Flint area.

A ring found in a gravel pit near Hillsdale College, where 87 coeds reported seeing an unidentified flying object, was tested for radioactivity Monday with negative findings.

William Van Horn, Hillsdale County Civil Defense Director who, with the coeds and housemother, Mrs. Kelly Hearn, watched an object outside a dormitory for several hours last Monday night, said there were reports the ring was radioactive.

Van Horn said there was no trace of radioactivity on the ring, which he said he believed had been dropped by a member of a crew digging test wells in the area.

Most of some 30 reported sightings in the Ann Arbor area described the objects as flying less than 500 feet overhead. Previous reports last week placed them at 1,000 feet or higher.

Jack Bingham, Jr., a 14-year-old high school student, said he first spotted the objects through a telescopic rifle sight when they were about 10 miles away.

"It's hard to say how big they were, but I would guess anywhere from 20 to 40 feet in diameter, circular in shape, with two or three red blinking lights on top," the boy told a reporter.

"On the bottom side, arranged in a circular pattern were what appeared to be square portholes. A green glow came out of them. There were five of them and they hovered about 300 or 400 feet overhead, slowing down to about 20 miles an hour."

Bingham, whose story was corroborated by his mother, said the objects moved with fantastic speed, zig-zagged and moved up and down.

Another Ann Arbor resident who reported seeing lights in the sky was Richard Sober, an off-duty sheriff's deputy. He and a neighbor watched the objects--flashing red, white, and green lights--from their front yards.

Near Flint, police chief Ford Wallace of Linden told of spotting blue, white and red lights several thousand feet overhead which he said hovered for a time and then rapidly moved away to the north.

An Air Force investigator, Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, said last week that some of the sightings--including those by the Hillsdale coeds--probably were swamp gas.

But Hynek, a prominent astrophysicist, emphasized his investigation was confined to only incidents reported on two nights. Meanwhile, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena called on the government to release all information it has on unidentified flying objects.

Major Donald Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.) told a news conference in Washingtons:

"There is substantial evidence we are being observed by some sort of device which is far more advanced than anything we have and is controlled by a superior civilization."

Keyhoe urged the Air Force to "end the secrecy on sightings and stop ridiculing the competent witnesses" who have seen them.

Police at Crown Point, Ind., about 12 miles west of Valparaiso, said they received a report of a UFO "crashing" in a woods. They said they investigated and found nothing supicious in the area.

A Coast Guard cutter radioman said he received reports of an oval-shaped object that glowed orange over a house in Freeport, Texas, Sunday night and then took off in a blue glow. One observer thought he saw windows in the object.

A UFO reported over Bryan, Texas, changed from green to yellow white, observers said. Some insisted the star-like objects purred.

Three teen-aged boys at Farmington, Mo., said they chased an airborne object for three blocks and got a snapshot which shows an "elongated light."

An airport control tower operator at Columbus, Ga., said a glowing, oblong object was tracked on radar for more than an hour.

WASHINGTON (UPI) - Wednesday, March 30, 1966 - House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford thinks there might be substance to some of the current flying saucer reports. He formally demanded a congressional investigation Tuesday to try to find out.

The Michigan congressman, whose home State has been the scene of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects--orUFOs--asked for an investigation by either the House Armed Service Committee or the House Space Committee.

But Rep. George P. Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the space committee, said flying saucers were not in his jurisdiction. He said it was up to the Armed Service Committee because that group deals with the Air Force, which in turn has investigated all UFO reports through the years.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., chairman of the armed services group, said he "never put much stock' in flying saucers, but added, "Of course, we'll give the Republican leader's request every consideration." *

Rivers said he would discuss Ford's proposal with senior committee members Thursday.

U. S. Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., said Tuesday he would "encourage" Rivers to launch an investigation of UFOs.

"All kinds of reports are coming in from rather credible sources and certainly it's not inappropriate, in my judgement, for the committee to get involved," he said.

Ford's demand came amid a new flurry of saucer sightings in Michigan, Ohio and California, among other places.

Hundreds of persons, including policemen, firemen and newsmen, said they saw a UFO over Toledo Monday night. Depending on who saw it, the object was either orange, red, green, blue, or white, and either round, rectangular, or cigar-shaped.

At Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, about 15 coeds said they saw a reddish-blue light over their dormitory for more than an hour early Tuesday.

There also were renewed sightings in Michigan.

Ford, in his letter to Miller and Rivers, said, "I think there may be substance to some of these reports."

An Air Force consultant has said the Michigan sightings near Dexter and Hillsdale were swamp gas. But Ford said, "I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away."

"In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena, " Ford said.

"I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment of this subject."

The Air Force has said that most saucer sightings can be explained by misinterpretation of natural phenomena and that there is no evidence the Earth has been visited from outer space.

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*Politicians shy away from discussion and the investigation of UFOs, possibly because of the opportunity for ridicule by the political opposition. -- Gray Barker

Incident in Washington

WASHINGTON (UPI) - Thursday, March 31, 1966 - Flying saucer fans, the word from the top at the Pentagon is that there aren't any--either ours or somebody else's.

That's what Defense Secrectary Robert S. McNamara told congressmen Wednesday. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he agreed. He said all the service chiefs did, too.

Their statements were reported by members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee after McNamara and Wheeler testified in support of President Johnson's $3.5 billion dollar foreign aid bill.

Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher, D-N. J., was reported to have b ought up the recent reports of saucer sightings when he asked McNamara if he thought potential new foreign aid clients had been trying to make contact with the earth.

McNamara said he was sure this wasn't the case.

Gallagher then asked McNamara if he could "categorically deny" the possibility that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) reported seen in Michigan and elsewhere had extraterrestrial implications.

McNamara, who incidentally, used to make his home at Ann Arbor where some sightings have been reported, replied that he could deny this categorically. Members quoted him as saying the Defense Department would have an intense interest in any such manifestation because of its security aspects.

The defense chief said all reported UFO sightings had been investigated by the military and there was no evidence to support the theory they might be controlled vehicles from outer space or anywhere else.

And what else could Secretary McNamara have said? Had he said that flying saucers (if there are such things) were real and had origins outside this planet, what would the public reaction have been? It's almost shudderingly easy to guess.

I"m not saying for one minute that the Air Force or any other group does have the information to prove that such objects actually exist. I am saying that either way any proof we would get from them would be slanted and would not give us satisfactory answers to our questions.

That same day, another report, though minor, came in:

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - Thursday, March 31, 1966 - A nine-year-old girl reported today she had seen

a mysterious football-shaped object in the sky last night near Fulton (about 20 miles south-east of Kalamazoo--jcs).

Christina Marie Bahs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Bahs of 10842 S. 42nd St., Kalamazoo County, said she saw the object from her bedroom window at 9 p.m. "At first I thought it was an airplane, because it made a humming noise. It had five or six red lights," she said.

The lights were constant and appeared to be along the bottom of the object, which was about the size of a car and "about as high up as two trees," she said.

The object appeared in the western sky near the house, located five and one-half miles south of Climax and three miles north of Fulton. Christina said she watched it for five minutes until it darted up and off to the east.

"It looked something like the space ship on 'Lost in Space,'" she said.

This was accompanied by this article, appearing the same day and in the same newspaper:

HOMER - (BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS) - Thursday, March 31, 1966 - Red and green lights flying through the night sky around Homer drew a wondering audience last night.

First report came from a motorist who stopped at the Four-Leaf Clover Motel on M-60 just east of here, saying there were strange lights in the sky to the east, and asking permission to park and watch.'

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rhoades, proprietors of the motel, joined the motorist and his passengers watching the object. It showed red and green lights as it moved about, apparently close to the ground.

Mrs. Kathryn Simpson, who lives near the motel, notified state police from Tekonsha at 8;25 p.m. who came and watched the object. The officers concluded that it was an aircraft showing normal navigation lights moving against the starry sky.

The observers said there was no sound, and that the lights blinked on and off, and upon occasion "twirled."

At Jackson's Reynolds Field, the night controller left no notes of unusual activity, and there had been no inquiries about unidentified flying objects.

Nevertheless, other persons from Homer came out to the motel to watch the skies over a period of an hour. At one time they said there were two objects in the sky.

Upon using binoculars, they said, they could see other lights on the objects.

By now, going out looking for flying saucers was "the thing to do." I leave it to the reader to distinguish between those that may be the true, factual accounts and those that may be the product of some eager UFO hunter's fruitful imagination.

I cannot say which are which in the preceding reports, and those that follow. It seemed that everyone who went out looking for saucers found them, and that sounded a little fishy to me; however, when our group staged a "Skywatch" one night, we met with incredible results. That will be discussed in an upcoming chapter.

FRANKFORT (AP) - Saturday, April 9, 1966 - Sten Larsen, a Frankfort junior high school teacher, reported sighting an unidentified flying object Thursday night between Frankfort and nearby Beulah.

Larsen's teenage son,Timothy, backed up his father's story.

"I never believed in them before," said Larsen. "But I certainly do now after (what) I saw. I am positive about it. There's no doubt in my mind."

Larsen described the object as two car lengths in width and said it had a cigar profile, with red lights at the ends and green lights inside.

The object hovered, Larsen reported, so he stopped his car and got out. He reported it made a "sixth" noise.

For a time he said it flew along ahead of his car, then came back toward it, and finally appeared to settle over a rise.

Three days later came some happy news, from a most unlikely person:

CHICAGO (UPI) - Tuesday, April 12, 1966 - The Air Force's chief consultant in unidentified flying objects sightings, who ruled souther Michigan UFOs were nothing but marsh gases, has urged the government to begin an extensive but "quiet" scientific study of such sightings.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astronomer, said Monday he made the recommendation in House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington last week.

"Any phenomenon that has been with us for such a long time--20 years--deserves study," he said. "While

there are many cases that don't need study, there are some that do." He said his files are full of UFO sightings that have not been explained.

Hynek, a government advisor of UFOs since 1948, said the mystery of "flying saucers" will never be solved without competent scientific investigation. Sociologists and psychologists should take part in the study, he recommended.

The study should be without fanfare or publicity so as not to alarm the population, he said.

Hynek said his views coincide with those of a group of consultants who have recommended that the goverment set aside $250,000 to begin the investigation. Scientists for the probe should be recruited, this group has recommended.

In testimony before the Senate committee last week, Hynek said he has set aside for further study about 20 "particularly well reported UFO cases, which, despite the character, technical competence, and number of witnesses, I have not been able to explain." Ten of these are from scientists and professional people, he said.

That same day another report came, this time from my area:

MARSHALL EVENING CHRONICLE - Tuesday, April 12, 1966 - Norman and Mildred Slaughter, Lyon Lake, have reported watching a UFO two mornings this week. Monday morning it was sighted about 5:10 and appeared to be a very bright light but, seen through binoculars it apeared to have red lights on one side and green on the other. It was moving south-southeast and was seen for over an hour.

She said they called Doug McCuaig, Lyon Lake, and George McKelvey, Cedar Lake, and their son, David Marshall. David said they could see the light on the horizon from Marshall but went to Lyon Lake where it was brighter.

He took a picture both Monday and Tuesday but they haven't been developed yet. This morning the "thing" appeared about 4:50 and seemed to be going south-east, then up, and then to the west, and on out of sight.

Four days later, the Battle Creek newspaper came out with their first area report:

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - Saturday, April 16, 1966 - A UFO described as "big as a house" was observed

about 5:30a.m. yesterday by Robert Parker of 95 N. Cedar Avenue as he drove east on W. Michigan Avenue.

He told police the object moved at a "very high speed" in a northwesterly direction and at first he thought it was a bright star. But it became larger and larger until it was "enormous" and the size of a house.

Mr. Parker said it was a silver-colored disk with two running lights. His sighting was reported by police to the Air Force personnel at Custer Air Force Station.

It had been the following week that another theory concerning the rash of sightings came up:

ANN ARBOR (UPI) - An astronomer said today that two particularly distinctive stars may have been confused with unidentified flying objects in recent weeks.

Prof. Hazel M. Losh of the University of Michigan said the stars are Arcturus, an orange star, and Vega, a "dazzling bluish star."

She said Arcturus, "reddish in appearance and twinkling...may easily be mistaken by the person unfamiliar with the skies as a foreign object."

Miss Losh said Vega is "one of the most beautiful stars in the heavens" and can be seen along the eastern horizon.

"It is of special concern that we recognize some of the bright stars, especially as they come over the horizon, for lately some of the best known have apparently been confused with reported unidentified objects," she said.

Another theory; unfortunately it doesn't apply convincingly to the Michigan sightings. Stars, in my opinion, have caused a great deal of "sightings", but not that many as to make it a usual occurrence.

In all of the reported cases, the objects moved, either slowly or at high speed. True, stars also move, but a star takes almost 15 minutes to half an hour to make any change in position. Therefore, if there is to be a correct explanation of the Michigan Flap, it will not be either this or "swamp gas."

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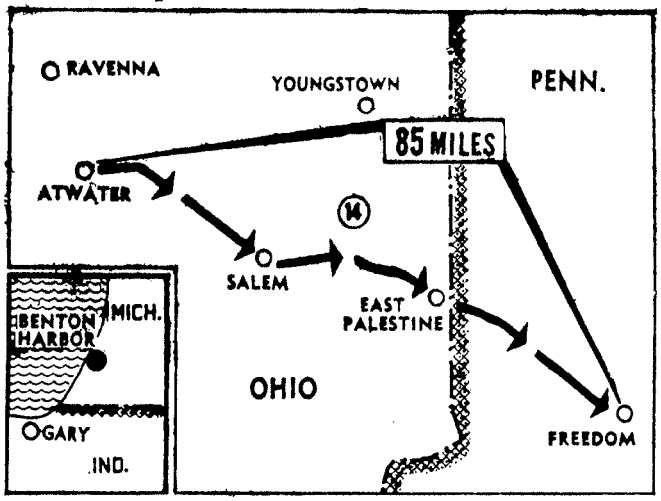
*At press time it has been learned that the University of Colorado has signed a contract with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to conduct a 15-month study of Flying Saucers at a cost of $300,000. The basic task of the team of scientists will be to check on the validity of the Air Force's method of investigating reports and the accuracy of the Air Force findings that nearly all of the objects reported have been illusions, conventional objects, etc.

Map of the Saucer Chase



Chapter Five

Incident of the Chase

RAVENNA, OHIO (AP) - April 18, 1966 - "We were close, closer than I ever want to be again," said a deputy sheriff who chased an unidentified flying object from Ohio into Pennsylvania.

Hundreds of persons in both states reported seeing the "brilliant and shiny" object early Sunday morning.

Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, about eight miles north of Ravenna, said he took a picture of the object from his front yard but the Air Force told him not to release it.

Buchert said it looked like "two table saucers put together."

Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur said he and his partner, W. L. Neff, "were close" to the object in separate cars and chased it 86 miles for an hour and a half, from near Ravenna to Conway, Pa., near Pittsburgh.

Spaur said he clocked it at speeds up to 103 miles per hour. From the ground Spaur said it looked like the head of a flashlight, about 40 feet wide and 18 feet high.

Spaur said the lines of the object were very distinct. "Somebody had control over it," he said. "It wasn't just floating around. It can maneuver."

The deputy said the chase slowed down near Rochester, Pa., when the cars "got tangled up in a mess of bridges. But when I came out from under the bridge it came down and waited for us, just as though it knew these two cars

were following it."

"I know nobody's going to believe it, but it's true," he said.

Spaur said the only sound coming from the object was a steady, faint humming, like an electric transformer. Near Conway, Pa., Spaur said the object began hovering and "was going for altitude, straight up."

He said the object disappeared after he and others went to the police station to telephone Air Force officials.

The Federal Aviation Agency's air traffic control centers at Oberlin, Ohio, and Pittsburgh said they had spotted no unknown objects on their radar.

It was by now that the humor of the situation had dawned on the public at large. The saucers were flying almost everywhere, so it was old hat if someone saw a saucer. Even the ad agencies started to commercialize on the big scare. One furniture chain offered its "fantastic" so-called "UFO (Unusual Furniture Offer) Sale" with captions like "No wonder these UFOs came to Michigan, there's no finer place to buy than at...etc."

However, it was the above report that took the edge off the-ones-who-laughed. It came to the populace that this was nothing to be taken lightly, even if the saucer in the new report "came down and waited" for the chasers. Swamp gas, stars, balloons, and other run-of-the-mill what-have-yous don't do those kind of things.

On the same day, the following report appeared:

BENTON HARBOR (UPI) - Three rubbish collectors, several policemen and a newsman all had a good look at an unidentified flying object here Sunday.

The UFO, with one light so bright "you couldn't look at it," was spotted near the downtown section by the three rubbish collectors who observed it moving across the Benton Harbor High School area, then hovering briefly over a motel along the St. Joseph River.

Joseph Franklin, head of the crew, said it was about 15 stories in the air, had a steel-like shell and looked "something like a hot dog in shape." He said it had a brilliant light at one end, so bright he couldn't look directly at it.

Franklin and his crew went to a police station and reported the object. Police viewed the object, which by that time had risen higher, and patrolman David Hanner notified the Air Defense Command at Fort Custer, near Battle Creek.

Dennis Charles, News Director of Radio Station WSJM in Benton Harbor, also saw the object.

In the last two articles, we notice the similarity of the objects ("bright and shiny...like the head of a flashlight..." in the first case; "so bright 'you couldn't look straight at it!" in the second case) and the similarity of the times of the sightings. Is this coincidence? Probably. But maybe not.

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ADDENDA TO CHAPTER 5: A bizarre follow-up to the saucer chase reported above was published October 10, 1966, in the Akron Beacon Journal. What happened to the men who chased the saucer is reported below by John de Groot.

A Lonely Man, His Marriage Shattered, His Life Ruined

The Deputy Sheriff Who Chased a Flying Saucer

AKRON (AP) — IN HIS RUINED world of loneliness and twisted nightmares, Dale Spaur wonders if the chase will ever end.

IT BEGAN six months ago with a flying saucer named Floyd.

In the predawn hours of a gentle April morning, Spaur, a Portage County sheriff's deputy, chased a flying saucer 86 miles.

..Now the strange craft is chasing him.

And he is hiding from it, a bearded stranger peering past the limp curtains of a tiny motel room in Solon, Ohio.

He no longer is a deputy sheriff.

His marriage is shattered.

He lost 40 pounds.

He lives on one bowl of cereal and a sandwich each day.

Dale Spaur — A Lonely Man

HE WALKS three miles to an $80-a-week painter's job. His motel room costs $60 a week. The court has ordered him to pay his wife $20 a week for the support of his two children.

That leaves Dale Spaur exactly nothing.

The flying saucer did it.

"If I could change all that I have done in my life," he said, "I would change just one thing. And that would be the night we chased that damn thing. That saucer."

He spit the word out. Saucer. An obscenity.

Others might understand.

Four other officers took part in the April drama.

POLICE CHIEF Gerald Buchert of Mantua saw the craft and photographed it. The pictures turned out badly, an odd fuzzy white thing suspended in blackness. Today, Chief Buchert laughs nervously when he speaks of that night.

"I'd rather not talk about it," he says. "It's something that should be forgotten, left alone. I saw something, but I don't know what it was."

Special Deputy W. L. Neff rode with Spaur during the chase.

He won't talk about it.

His wife Jackelyne explains, "I hope I never see him like he was after the chase. He was real white, almost in a state of shock. It was awful.

"And people made fun of him afterwards. He never talks about it anymore. Once he told me, 'If that thing landed in my back yard, I wouldn't tell a soul,' He's been through a wringer."

Patrolman Frank Panzanella saw the chase end in Conway, Pa., where he works. He saw the craft.

Now he is silent. Friends say he had his telephone removed because of calls about that April morning.

H. Wayne Huston was a police officer in East Palestine, Ohio. He had worked there seven years. Several months after the saucer passed above him in the night, he resigned, going to Seattle, Wash., to drive a bus.

Huston now goes by Harold W. Huston. He tells you: "Sure I quit because of that thing. People laughed at me. And there was pressure. You couldn't put your finger on it, but the pressure was there. The city officials didn't like police officers chasing flying saucers."

Thus the story of the other officers.

Three still wear badges, but do not speak of what they saw.

SPAUR AND HUSTON have turned in their badges.

Now Spaur hides in Solon, a fugitive from a flying saucer named Floyd. He cannot escape the strange craft.

It remains with him, locked in his mind reappearing in nightly sweating dreams that are a bizarre mixture of reality and fantasy.

Of that night: He is driving car 13. Barney Neff is beside him. They are heading east along U.S. 224 between Randolph and Atwater when they spot a red and white 1959 Ford alongside the road.

Barney and Dale stop to check it out. The car is filled with walkie-talkies and other radios.

A strange emblem is painted on the side. A triangle with a bolt of lightning inside it. Above the emblem is written "Seven stops to hell."

SUDDENLY SPAUR hears a humming sound behind him.

He turns and sees a huge, saucer-shaped craft rising out of a woods. The entire underside of the craft gleams with an intense, purplish-white light.

Spaur calls to Barney, who turns, sees the craft, then stands paralyzed.

Neither moves. Spaur is sure he can't move. That his limbs will not work. He does not know why he is sure of this. He just believes it.

The ship rises to about 150 feet and moves directly over the patrol car. Both men feel warm, pleasing heat from the light blazing from the bottom of the craft. But the light is so intense that tears stream from their eyes.

Spaur thinks about moving back to the car. Yet he does not. Some trace of a thought which seems to tell him that if he touches the car it will disappear.

Then the saucer moves away from the car and stops. As though on command, both men race to the cruiser. Later, Spaur thinks that is strange, that both would move at exactly the same instant.

SPAUR RADIOS in, telling the deskman what he has seen. Others reports have already flared over the radio.

"Shoot it," the radio man tells Spaur.

Again, some strange feeling tells Spaur not to get out of the cruiser and shoot at the craft.

It is about 50 feet across and maybe 15 to 20 feet high. On top of it is a large dome. An antenna just out from the rear part of the dome.

The night sergeant comes on the radio and tells Spaur to chase it. The craft moves away and Spaur follows. Slowly at first.

Later, he hits speeds of more than 100 miles an hour racing eastward through Ohio and into Pennsylvania.

THE CRAFT seems to be letting Spaur follow it. It waits for him at intersections. Once, it seems to double back when he is forced to turn away from its eastward path.

Finally, after the sun has risen, the chase ends near Pittsburgh when Spaur runs out of gas. This is what happened, according to Spaur and Neff.

Now Spaur relives the chase each night in a twisting nightmare.

But in his dream, car 13 vanishes. Disappears when he touches it. And then Spaur stands alone beneath the huge ship.

At this moment, he awakens shivering and wet. Alone in his motel room.

As he speaks of the six months since he saw the flying saucer called Floyd, it is difficult to tell when the nightmare stops and reality begins.

SPAUR DOES NOT know what happened to the sedan with "Seven Steps to Hell" written on its sides.

After the chase, his daily routine was washed away in a sea of reporters, television cameras, government investigations and letters from places like Little Rock, Ark., which told him what to do if "the little green men" tried to contact him.

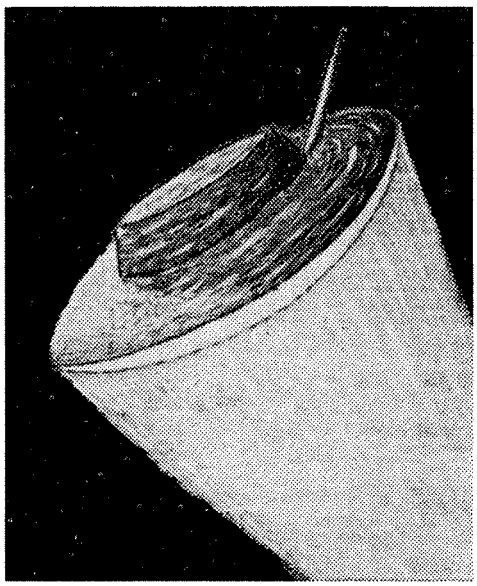
"My entire life came crashing down around my shoulders," he said.

"Everything changed. I still don't really know what happened. But suddenly, it was as though everybody owned me and I no longer had anything for myself. My wife, my home, my children. They all seemed to fade away."

SPAUR'S WIFE Daneise now is alone with their two children. She has filed for divorce and is working as a waitress in a bar at Ravenna.

"Something happened to Dale, but I don't know what it was," she says. "He came home that day and I never saw him more frightened before. He acted strange, listless. He just sat around. He was very pale.

"Then later, he got real nervous. And he started to run away. He'd just disappear for days and days. I wouldn't see him.



What Floyd Looked Like

"Our marriage fell apart. All sorts of people came to the house. Investigators, reporters. They kept him up all night. They kept after him, hounding him. They hounded him right into the ground.

"And he changed."

THEN ONE NIGHT, Dale came home very late. He isn't sure what happened. He walked

o the living room. There were some other ople there. Things were very tense. Very nfused.

He grabbed his wife and shook her. Hard. e kept shaking her. It left big ugly bruises n her arms.

He doesn't know how or why.

That was the end of July. Daneise filed assault and battery charges. Dale was jailed, and turned in his badge.

A newspaper printed a story about the deputy who chased the flying saucer being jailed for beating his wife.

When he got out of jail, Dale left town, turned his back on everything.

But the saucer followed him, locked in his dreams.

IN RAVENNA, Daneise can only say, "Dale is a lost soul. And everything is finished for us."

In Solon, Dale said "I have become a freak. I'm so damn lonely. Look at me, 24 years old, and what do I have? Nothing.

"Who knows me? To everyone, I am Dale Spaur, the nut who chased a flying saucer. My father called me several weeks ago. A long time ago, we had a fight. I hadn't heard from him for years. Then he calls me.

"Do you think he called to ask how I was to say I love you, son, to see if I wanted to go fishing, or something? Hell, no. He wanted to know if I'd seen any more flying saucers.

"I tried to go to church for help. I went to church and the minister introduced me to the congregation. 'We have the man who chased a flying saucer with us today,' he said."

DALE PAUR wept as he told what the flying saucer named Floyd had done to him.

He calls it Floyd because he saw it once more while he was still working for the sheriff's department.

The radio operators knew civilians were monitoring their broadcasts. So they agreed to use a code name if the flying saucer was seen again. They called it Floyd, Dale Spaur's middle name.

Dale was driving east on Interstate 80-S one night in June. He looked up. There it was.

"Floyd's here with me," he whispered into the radio.

THEN HE PARKED the car, and sat there, along. This time Barney Neff was not with him. Dale did not look out the window. He lit a cigarette and stared at the floor of the cruiser. He sat there for nearly 15 minutes not looking outside, not wanting to see Floyd.

When he looked up, Floyd had disappeared.

POSTSCRIPT: As of October fifteenth, 1966, the "Great Chase" was explained. The UFO was said to have been invented by some physics students at Kent State University in Ohio from "an old weather balloon, a car radio antenna, a bicycle light and transistor batteries." The Wooster, Ohio Daily Record quoted a "reliable source" as giving this information. This explanation came at such an appropriate time as when the public at large had forgotten most of the facts of the case. This explanation fails to explain that the object was clocked at over 100 miles an hour (wind speeds were simply not that great then), the weird maneuvering of the UFO toward the cars, the faint drone "like an electric transformer" eminating from the object, the brightness of the craft (assuming it to be a craft), for a bicycle light would have problems causing a weather balloon to appear bright at all! And why did it wait over a hour and a half to suddenly shoot straight up into the sky?

Another explanation fails to convince. Sorry.

Chapter Six

Incident In Marshall

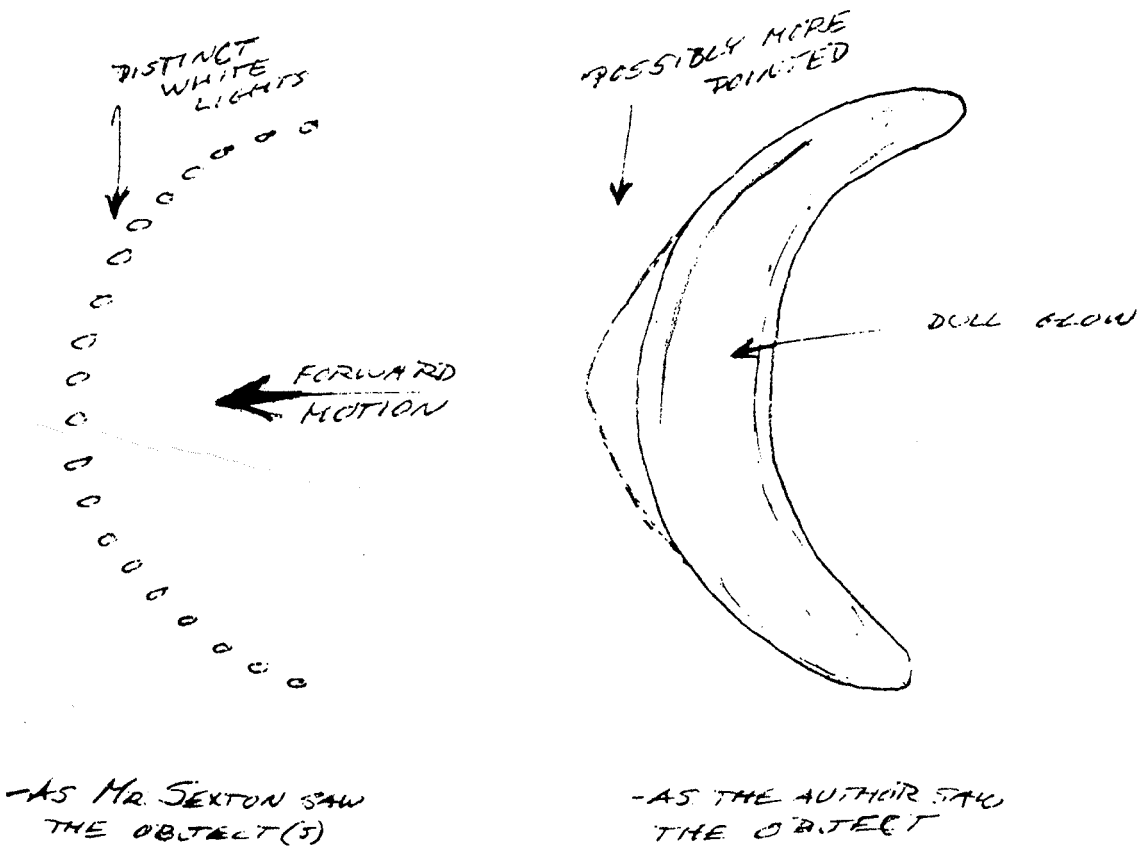
Earlier in the week of the great "chase" across Ohio and Pennsylvania, I had been trying to organize a "Skywatch" for some night so that we wouldn't be left alone among all these people who went about seeing saucers.

On the night of the skywatch, it turned out that many of the members were unable to come; in fact, only one other person besides myself could attend. This was Arthur Sexton of Marshall, Assistant Chairman of our group.

It was about 8:30 p. m. when I met Art at the door of my home. He breathlessly greeted me with, "I just saw one!"

Naturally, I ran back outside with him, where he showed me the approximate area where the UFO was seen. He described it as a bright light, moving at a very high speed. He told that as he was watching, the UFO suddenly dipped up and vanished, apparently zooming away at terrific speed. (For those interested persons who might want a clue as to where it might have been heading, the object disappeared just under the double star Alcor and Mizar in the bend of the handle in the Big Dipper--good hunting!)

As you already know, I have a half-belief in signs from heaven. To me the above experience related by Mr. Sexton was one. Therefore, we prepared for the task that was to be ours for the next two hours with great anticipation.



Author's drawings of objects seen during skywatch.

We started out in a turn-taking agreement: I would watch the skies while he rested for ten minutes, and then would take over. When it began to get cold, we took our turns at going inside and having hot chocolate. The date was April 21, and the cold wave that hit Michigan earlier in the year had not yet subsided.

It was approximately 9:25 when Art (who was on duty at the time) suddenly grabbed my head while I was reading an article with my flashlight, swiveled it to my left, and pointed with his other hand (this is a frightening experience for those who have never had themselves pulled violently from an interesting piece of news).

Art semi-yelled "Over there!" I saw absolutely nothing, except for the huge amount of stars visible on that clear night.

"What?"

Art told me that this time there were two lights, flying in formation, and that they had just disappeared behind a neighbor's garage as I looked. It was my tough luck, but we continued watching in that direction for the reappearance of the objects. Nothing more was seen of them.

Now this was all good fun and frolic but we needed something concrete, not just a couple of lights that only one of us could see at a time. And that night, were lucky beyond belief.

Unfortunately though, we did not bring a camera with us. The camera which I use is unsuitable for photographing distant lights; and that is what I thought we would be seeing, I did not bring it as it was bulky. It turned out that if the object that we were to see had slowed down a little, we might have gotten a fairly decent shot. But this was the work of amateurs, so what was there to expect?

Another thing that I would like to mention is that the related events that follow are true. We, being the two witnesses to the sighting, were attempting to show that a serious group free of emotionalism, sensationalism, and extreme imagination could experience the same occurrences reported by so many others in the weeks before. Outside, we believed that we wanted to see a UFO, but inside? I suspect no, that we didn't, because we did feel that many of the previous sightings were flying figments of people's minds. That night, our inside emotions were thrown completely out of whack.

The next morning, while the event was fresh in my mind, I wrote that Art Sexton and I "saw a flying object first at 10:00 p.m. and again at 10:08 p.m. At both times, the UFO was heading in a east-to-west direction, the first time appearing in the north,

the second time, appearing directly overhead!"

Immediately after the first sighting, I told Art to take a sheet of paper and pencil, and to sketch on it what he had seen. I did the same. When we displayed them, we found that Art had drawn a group of lights, flying in a V formation, while I had drawn one large solid object, shaped like a large V. I admit I had seen a dull glow, but not all the lights. Art had seen only the lights, and not the solid mass.

I wrote in my report that "whichever it was, it had no blinking lights or sound in accompaniment. It traveled at terrific speed, the longest sighting being about eight seconds."

After these two sightings, especially after the second the object was directly overhead (was it watching us?) A very strange feeling of the Unknown came over me. Now I am not a mystic or other such person, but I can get scared just as much as the next fellow!

In regard to this chapter, I would like to say that I am not claiming that our sighting is a major incident of the Michigan flap. I am, however, going to stress one point: Seeing is not always believing. I failed to believe those who saw the saucers when they went looking for them, because I felt that it could not be done in that way; but, as you now know, I have no choice but to put my faith in these reports, except for the small number that sound suspicious. And I think you, the reader, should do the same, even though you may be one of the unfortunate few who have not had the opportunity of witnessing such phenomena.

POSTSCRIPT: While glancing through the May, 1966 issue of FLYING SAUCERS -- Mysteries of the Space Age, I was surprised to find on page 51 a drawing of a flying object seen by a Lillian Madden on the night of August 17, 1952 at her home in Hollywood, Florida. The drawing could very well be a composite drawing of the sighting experienced by Mr. Sexton and myself.

The drawing revealed a boomerang-shaped object with a row of lights along its body. As Mr. Sexton saw only a V-shaped formation of lights and I saw only the V-shaped body, this discription of Miss Madden's could account for the object which we saw, even though her object flew differently, etc. See this magazine for full details.

Chapter Seven

Incidents of the Past

The State of Michigan was not alone within the realm of flying saucers during those hectic months. UFOs were being seen all over the United States: San Marino, California; Trinidad, Colorado; Bryan and Freeport, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Wausau, Tomah and Green Bay, Wisconsin; La Salle and De Kalb, Illinois; not to mention numerous cities in Indiana, Ohio, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Alabama, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Canada. But the intensity was not in any of these; Michigan was the focal point.

But what about the time previous to the Great Flap? Was it quiet, therefore being the lull before the storm? Not in your life! The days leading up to those months in Michigan were swarming with reports.

July 3, 1965: Scientific personnel at bases in Antartica sight a giant lens-shaped object moving erratically at various speeds with no sound. The object was colored "mostly red and green, changing occasionally, with yellow, blue, white, and orange shades."

August 2: Unidentified flying object tracked on radar into Texas where photographs of it were taken 13 miles east of Sherman.

August 3: Unidentified object spotted by highway inspector Rex Heflin in Orange County, California. Four photographs taken with Polaroid camera within the thirty seconds the object was visible. These photographs were disputed upon later. Widely reported.

August 7: A group of seven to ten flying objects flying in a V-formation chased by jet interceptors over Lake Superior. Radar tracking stations in Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, and Canada received the objects on their scopes.

August 10-11: Saucer sightings in Albany, New York reveal wing-shaped UFOs and the same flying in formation.

August 19: Saucer sighted in North Carolina. Described as a white, cigar-shaped object, it apparently landed and left physical evidence of its presence.

Beginning September 3: A huge flap of saucer sightings centering around Exeter, New Hampshire. Many different objects seen, but most prominent was the first report, made by Norman Muscarello, and later seen by him and two officers from the local police department when they drove back to the scene of the sighting. They described it as about 90 feet in diameter, with six brightly glowing red lights pulsating in a 1-2-3-4-5-6, 6-5-4-3-2-1 sequence. The UFO rocked back and forth over the witnesses heads for a good deal of time before it went behind the nearby trees and disappeared. Afterwards, a great many sightings reported made in that area.

October 21: Mr Arthur Strauch of Gibbon, Minnesota took a photograph of a UFO which pulsated orange and white and hung in the sky for ten minutes. The sighting occurred about 15 miles from his home.

October 23: James Townsend, radio announcer of KEYL, Long Prairie, Minnesota, reported a sighting of a 40-foot rocket-shaped object with three small robotic "occupants" which were stationed outside the landed craft. It apparently affected his car, which stopped and would not start while the object was in the vicinity. The object took off in full view of Mr. Townsend, who then reported it to the police.

November 9: During the New York Blackout, several UFOs were seen flying over the city and surrounding areas. Photographs of the objects were taken. Some theorists proclaim that UFOs were the cause of the blackout. Going into this theory would involve lengthy reports which are unattainable by me, therefore, I leave it to the reader to do some research on this subject for himself.

November 27: In Confluence, Pennsylvania, two boys in their teens observed a UFO which zig-zagged while flying over the city at unusually low altitude. It disappeared by shooting upward at great speed.

December 9: During the evening, a huge fireball raced across Michigan, Canada, Ohio, and reportedly landed near Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania. The fireball is said to have been a large meteorite, which broke up leaving pieces of itself strewn in various areas of the states already mentioned. However, conflicting reports may have shown that the fireball changed course during its flight; an uncommon (if not completely impossible) occurance with meteorites. Widely reported.

December 10: Three women, driving between Nazareth and Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, reported seeing a large UFO hovering over their car and taking off by shooting straight up and out of sight.

December 20: Edward Bruns of Herman, Minnesota, encountered a UFO which picked up the family truck he was driving and placed it in a ditch. The object was said to have a reddish glow and had sparks shooting out from its underside.

Beginning January 11, 1966, a large saucer flap began in Wanaque, New Jersey and area when a UFO was seen over the reservoir of Raymond Dam. Policemen and citizens saw the object. The days that followed were filled with sightings.

February 11: Police spotted a UFO near Skowhegan, Maine about midnight on this date. The object was reported to have been about 20 feet long and moving at high speed. Other reports followed.

March 14: The Michigan Flap begins.

Of course, the above is merely a gathering of many important and interesting sightings that have reached my notice. There were so many that I could have mentioned, but they were mostly minor incidents, and they would just take up space. If I have left out a sighting that occurred in your area, I'm sorry, but I can't get them all in.

No doubt the saucers are now flying in another area of the globe, even though they seldom concentrate on one area at a time. The record which you have read shows a surprising number of these "concentrated" areas: Exeter, New Hampshire; New York, during the blackout; Pennsylvania, following the fireball sighting; and the New Jersey flap.

When you add the Michigan flap to the above, it is not difficult to notice that these areas lie in one general vicinity of the U.S. Is this coincidence? Maybe; maybe not.

A note to contactees: If you really are such a person who has met these beings from outer space(providing that these beings <u>are</u> from outer space) please pass along this message the next time you make contact: Greetings from Michigan. We miss you. Come back any ol' time!

Chapter Eight

Incidents Preceding the Skywatch

Our immediate area was not immune to the UFO sightings, as we already knew at the time of our "Skywatch." The two reports that came in were the actual reasons for holding one so early, instead of late May, as I had previously planned. These two reports, issued the same week of our venture, includes the city of Marshall:

> MARSHALL EVENING CHRONICLE - April 20, 1966 - Mrs. Marland Preston reports that on both Sunday and Monday nights she sighted brilliant objects in the sky over her home two miles west of Marshall.
>
> "Things weren't so active Tuesday night," she reported.
>
> The objects, she said, resembled cups upside down, with glowing lights. They reportedly were traveling at fantastic speeds.

The other report, reaching the printed page the previous day, took place in Battle Creek:

> BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - April 19, 1966- Unidentified flying objects were reported seen by Battle Creek area residents both in the daylight and at night yesterday.
>
> Donald J. Heywood of 225 Parrott Drive said he saw

a fast-moving, saucer-shaped object about 10:45 a.m. from W. Michigan Avenue near Kendall Street. He described it as slightly smaller than a compact car, silver-colored on the bottom and whitish on top, speeding southward about 400 feet in the air.

He spotted it while looking at a jet airplane from his car, he said. He stopped the car and got out, he said, but the object had disappeared from sight.

Last evening a flurry of excitement swept an Orchard Park area in which a number of teenagers reported they had seen an unidentified object flying and hovering over the neighborhood, emitting a low humming noise and flashing colored lights. Area police agencies said they had received no reports of the sighting.

Mrs. Donald Van Dragt, of 177 Redner Drive in the Orchard Park area, said a group of neighborhood teenagers spotted what they thought was a strange object shortly after dark from her backyard.

She said, however, one of them, Carol Baker of 181 Redner, later said she thought it was in reality an airplane landing at Kellogg Regional Airfield.

These two reports showed me that I would have (most likely) good luck with the Skywatch.

Chapter Nine

Incidents Following the Skywatch

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL - April 22, 1966 - Several unidentified flying objects were reported by Michigan residents early today and policemen said they observed two of them.

A State Police trooper at Sandusky, in Sanilac County, said he watched "a brilliant ball of light" in the pre-dawn sky today for more than an hour.

The trooper, Alex Fisher, described the object as having a green finger of light pointing towards its top and a red shaft toward the bottom. It hovered "at airplane altitude," he said, and gradually disappeared over Lake Huron to the east.

State Police at South Haven said they received several unverified reports of UFOs during the night from residents along the Lake Michigan Shoreline.

Three Rivers Policeman Daniel Puskas said he responded to a call by State Police at White Pigeon early today that an unidentified object, flashing red, green and white lights, was hovering between the St. Joseph County communities.

He said he watched the object as it moved erratically in the sky over the western edge of Three Rivers.

The UFO, which suddenly disappeared, was too far away to determine its shape or altitude, Puskas said, and he did not rule out the possibility that it may have been a helicopter.

After the preceding report, a lapse of five days came. Signs of doom, as I saw it, are like this. It was time for this whole mess to end, and it looked like it had.

But then, the next Wednesday, came this report, again from my area:

> BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - April 27, 1966 - Another strange object in the sky--this time cigar-shaped--was reported last night in the Battle Creek area.
>
> Mrs. Thomas K. Finney and her son, Michael, 6, saw an object in the sky with red and white blinking lights at 7:50 p.m. yesterday from the window of their home at 18 Parkridge Drive in Arboretum Hills, Mrs. Finney said.
>
> The object, which she said had a red blinking light in the center and pale white blinking lights at either end, appeared to come from the west, Mrs. Finney said. She and her son watched it from their back yard for about five minutes as it moved slowly off in a northeasterly direction.
>
> It made no noise and the span of lights compared to the wing span of a small two-engine plane, Mrs. Finney said. She estimated its height as that of "a very tall tree."
>
> "It was flying as low as an airplane coming in for a landing, but it made no noise," she said.
>
> She added that during the time the object appeared, she could not receive Channel 3 on her television set because of interference. She and her son were unable to distinguish the color of the object because of the darkening sky.
>
> A similar object was sighted last night between 7:30 and 8p.m. by Allen Boston of White Rabbit Road. He reported seeing a cigar-shaped object in the sky while driving toward Battle Creek on North Avenue. The object, which appeared from 40 to 50 feet long, came from the west and appeared to hover over the Orchard Park area before moving off to the east, he said. It had flashing lights and made no noise, he reported.
>
> Mr. Boston drove to a service station on North Avenue where he said two service station attendants also saw the strange cigar-shaped object.

I was happy to read the above report, just because I was glad to know that the flap was not yet over. However, another lapse of five days followed; the end was definitely near. That Monday, this report was issued:

> BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - May 2, 1966 - More mysterious flying objects were reported in the

Battle Creek area during the weekend: however the Custer Air Force Station that said Air Force radar screens showed nothing unusual.

Several law enforcement officers were among the latest to report seeing mysterious objects between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Sunday.

"I hadn't believed in these things until last night," said Patrolman Lawrence Olson of Pennfield Township. He was off duty when another patrolman, Leonard Gorton, drove to his house to point out three objects in the sky.

"They were real high, I'd guess about 5,000 feet. The lights were red and green and white with a bluish tint. They looked like three diamonds and they were in formation," patrolman Olson said.

He said he and Mr. Gorton observed the objects for about 20 minutes before they suddenly darted away westward. The two officers were watching from Olson's home on the Eight Mile Road near the Barry County line.

Springfield Patrolman Lloyd Denny and Conservation Officer Jay Larson were two others who reported seeing mysterious objects after several residents of Springfield (just west of Battle Creek--jcs) telephoned their police department about 9 p.m. Sunday.

Officer Denny said two objects appeared to hover over Custer Air Force Station. "They were about 400 yards apart I'd say and were both a dull red. After about 30 seconds they moved in our direction and passed right over us. They were quite high but I couldn't guess the distance. They disappeared going due north."

Denny Larson also reported seeing a bright light over Battle Creek a little later. It did not move but blinked red, green, and white. "It looked just like a traffic light going off and on," Denny said.

Jesse Batterson of 41 Maxwell St., reportedly watched by telescope mysterious blinking objects for more than an hour Sunday for the fourth night in a row. He could not be reached today for further comment.

Two days later, the following report was given:

BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER AND NEWS - May 4, 1966 - Two separate sightings of mysterious flying objects were reported in the Battle Creek area last night.

Sheriff's Deputy Neil Garfield, who was off duty, reported seeing one from his home at 72 S. 20th St., minutes before 9 p. m. His wife, Audrey, his brother, Howard Jr., and his sister-in-law, Georgie, also watched the object for about 15 minutes he said.

Another object in the sky was spotted about 9:30 p.m. by Richard Baldwin of 210 Broadway Blvd., Patrolman Al Tolf and some neighbors, Mr. Baldwin of 210 Broadway Blvd., Patrolman Al Tolf and some neighbors, Mr. Baldwin reported.

The object was at an altitude of between 2,000 and 3,000 feet just west of the Urbandale area, he said. The viewers report it gave off light, changing from vivid red to bright green and brilliant white.

They said the object moved slowly at times, but also darted quickly to one location and then another. It also seemed at times to move slowly and hover, they said.

The object was observed about 20 minutes before it moved almost out of sight to the west. The report was referred to the Air Force at Custer Air Station.

And that was it. The above was the last reported incident in Michigan, although the flap continued throughout the United States all the way down to Florida, where a speeder reported being chased by a "light." But that was all for Michigan.

Chapter Ten

Last Incidents

Ten days after the last Michigan report an article appeared in the newspaper to the effect that a woman motorist and many others reported a UFO, glowing a bright red, and flying across the sky. The female witness said that the "UFO" had followed her car down the road on which she was traveling.

Since the object was visible from the police headquarters, Sgt. Edward Jacobs, Battle Creek Township, stepped out to have a look. After watching the "craft" for a short period of time, he called the FAA tower of Kellogg Regional Airport. They, as well as the township firemen, had already been observing the object, which hovered about 300 feet in the air.

The "flying saucer"? Well, it turned out to be a prank played by a prankster who hoisted a flare into the air with the use of some gas-inflated balloons.

The moral: Watch out when dealing with UFO reports, even though they are reported by reputable citizens; they could be the victims of those wonderful people who just want to have a little fun at the expense of others and at the expense of a phenomenon which is puzzling in itself, without having it dirtied up by these goofs.

A further demonstration of this is the fact that in Eliot, Maine, a flying saucer was reported to have landed. The police

*For current and continuous coverage of UFO reports, we reccomend "SAUCER NEWS," published by James W. Moseley, P. O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey. 07024.

investigated, and not only found the "saucer," but the crew also. It seems that five high school students got together and made a saucer with lights from motorbikes and such, and had some fun. The story was carried by the Associated Press.

The last story having anything to do with the investigation of the mystery came out in the middle of May:

> HILLSDALE (UPI) - Monday, May 16, 1966 - The Hillsdale County Civil Defense Director who watched an unidentified flying object hover over a college campus in March issued a 24-page report today taking an Air Force investigator to task for his "swamp gas" theory of the sightings.
>
> William Van Horn, who with 84 coeds at Hillsdale College watched a UFO hover in a swamp outside a dormitory for four hours March 21, said his report was the result of seven-week investigation by "(?) men and myself."
>
> "The investigation conducted by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and the Air Force was very incomplete and was merely a token appearance sort of act," Van Horn said in a list of conclusions concerning the Northwestern University professor's investigation of the sightings for the Air Force's "Project Blue Book."
>
> Van Horn added, "If the whirlwind investigation that was conducted by the Air Force regarding the Hillsdale UFO, and the personnel that conducted it are representatives of our U. S. Air Force, I then feel that our people have a great deal more to be concerned about than the UFO situation."
>
> In his remarks in the report, Van Horn described the two Air Force personnel who accompanied Dr. Hynek to Dexter where the original sighting was made and Hillsdale later that week as "two young airmen." He also referred to Dr. Hynek's "short time of three hours" investigating the sighting.
>
> Van Horn also decried Dr. Hynek's lack of intensive questioning and said the investigator was not interested in the type of movement of "the vehicle."
>
> The Civil Defense Director circled 15 points in a copy of Dr. Hynek's press release on March 25 in which he explained the "swamp gas"theory. Van Horn offered refutations to the theory in the form of wind tables to indicate there was too much wind for swamp gas to form, average monthly temperatures to prove that marsh gas couldn't form under those conditions, and a detailed chemical report.
>
> The chemical report, made by two men described only as Kipling Vanderberg and Jerry Wilson, stated that tests were made on soil, plants, animals, minerals, water and the environment of the swampland on the campus.

The pair reported finding evidence of "above normal radiation" in all the elements and the presence of boron, a non-metallic element occurring in combinations such as borax and boric acid, which the report said was "alien to this type of soil."

Vanderberg and Wilson concluded in their report, "The area contained an abnormally high amount of radiation from some unknown source. The area also strangely contained boron which was found in both water and soil. These two facts are the only ones which would substantiate the presence of a UFO.

"In our opinion we're not saying that there was a UFO, but we also don't know how to account for these two facts. However, we believe it could not be swamp gas because of the high winds on the night of the sighting.

"With these high winds the gas would not have formed a mass and remained stationary. We also do not believe it was pranksters because we searched the swamp thoroughly for any sign of evidence to explain the phenomenon."

After including a photostatic copy of a letter sent to him by Dr. Hynek, Van Horn said in his report that he was very confused by the letter, which stated in one paragraph, "I am anxiously awaiting your report of the sightings of the lights we talked about on the phone just before I left Ann Arbor."

Van Horn said of that statement, "This particular sighting I shall not release any information on at this time other than to say that it occurred on the evening of March 24, 1966 at approximately 8 p.m. The sighting was referred to Selfridge Air Force Base radar and I was told there were two inanimate blips on the radar scope."

The Civil Defense Director accused "someone, somewhere" of forming a block against more intensive research in the area of UFOs which Dr. Hynek said he recommended as long ago as 1952 in his letter to Van Horn.

Attached to the report was an 8 x 10 color photograph of what Van Horn said was "taken in July of 1965 in Hillsdale County. I have had the negative of this picture in my possession and have had this checked and found to be authentic. The object is in focus which discounts a spot on the lens of the camera. Also the negative does not have any flaws and it definitely is not a superimposure."

The photograph, taken into the sun, shows a cone-shaped object, almost transparent, in the sky with a halo around it. Van Horn offered no further explanation of the photograph, which is really too bad, for the full details would have added materially to the report.

--And that was it. Michigan was done with the flying saucers. Whether the public had just stopped reporting them, or they had merely left our midst, we might never know. But we do know one things: They are gone now, and no one can predict when they will be back.

But someone tried:

> ANN ARBOR (UPI) - A University of Michigan astronomer today set a date for new reports on sightings of unidentified flying objects and said where to look for them.
>
> Professor Hazel M. Losh(we will remember Miss Losh as the astronomer who said the UFOs being seen were merely stars; see Chapter Four--jcs) said the reports will start around June 15 when the waning crescent Moon and the planet Venus will be coming over the eastern horizon at about the same time. Dr. Losh attributed reports of streaks in the sky during March to confusion about the rising of Venus and the Moon.
>
> "Venus will be close to the Moon in the viewer's eye around June 15 and again many will mistake their identity," Dr. Losh said. She added the mistaken identities usually occur when the two heavenly bodies rise at about the same time.

This remark by Dr. Losh interested me, as I also, was looking for a good explanation. I will admit that I had my qualms that the above was the theory I was looking for, but I just wanted to see.

When the second week in June rolled around, I was armed with newspapers, blasting radio, and television news. I stayed that way for a week.

Results: absolutely nothing. I guess the human population is a bit too smart to let a planet pass for a flying saucer.

The Great Michigan Flap was one of the most fantastic in the history of the UFO field. It spread over at least 16 counties of the lower penninsula, affecting countless cities, towns, villages, and people who lived in them. It reached out and touched surrounding states, even though its touch on Washington, D. C. did not include a sighting.

People saw saucers, and some believed; some who saw them still didn't believe.

Some people did not see saucers, and they disbelieved; some did not see saucerers, yet believed. It depends on how a man's mind works: A man believes what he wants to believe, and does not believe what he does not want to believe.

The human mind is the first obstacle to overcome in solving the UFO mystery.

Aftermath

As I write this last chapter of this book, I must reflect on the events of the past four months: How the flap began when police reported UFOs early in the morning; how only about a week later, it reached a startling sudden crescendo; how it inspired great controversy while it continued; and how it, oddly enough, ended in my area (if one can go so far as to say that it had any significance).

What affect did it have on the people of this State? For one thing, a great many people who scoffed at any mention of "flying saucers" now hold a different opinion; this is most likely because they either saw a UFO, or believed a friend who saw a UFO. A third reason for many converts may be that they wondered what kind of guff they were getting when the "swamp gas" theory came out.

Try it yourself: ask about 50 people what they think of the theory. Almost all of them will say to the effect that it is "ridiculous." Most of these people have probably not looked at the facts--but they don't need to: they're right.

I had a privileged position during the excitement. All I had to do was to sit tight and let the facts roll in. There the easiness stopped. I had to put the facts together and find logical conclusion.

But that is impossible. Very seldom can an author who writes about such a subject as UFOs reach a logical conclusion. That is what I have left up to you. You may reach your own conclusion on the Michigan flap; I have given you the facts. Use them well.

Meanwhile, I eagerly await the next time, whether it is tomorrow next month, or next year, when another person who lives in this sovereign state of Michigan will look up in the sky, gasp, point, and exclaim: "Behold! A UFO"

And, wherever you live, remember that these things may be flying over your town or city also -- if not today, most any other day. Yes, indeed, FLYING SAUCERS ARE WATCHING YOU too!

Appendix

The Flying Saucers, whatever they were, evidently were still "watching" us during the months that followed the writing of Mr. Sherwood's manuscript. Because of the particularly interesting events which happened during November, 1966, the publisher has decided to reprint some of the clippings which he has filed on these and other cases.

Publication of these stories does not imply endorsement by Mr. Sherwood and these accounts are now under intensive investigation by the publisher.

These news stories appear on the following pages.

----Gray Barker, Publisher
Saucerian Books

So This Guy Stepped Out of the Saucer . . .

'Have No Fear,' He Telepathed

PARKERSBURG, W.Va., Nov. 5 (UPI)—With police and an Air Force representative listening, Woodrow Derenberger Thursday told of his meeting with a "spaceman" who did everything short of ask him to "Take me to your leader."

However, the "spaceman" did —according to Derenberger—tell him: "Have no fear. We come from a country that is not nearly as powerful as yours. We mean you no harm."

Derenberger, a salesman and father of two, held a news conference Thursday to relate the experience he said occurred about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday while driving home from Marietta, Ohio, on Interstate 77.

Attending the conference were local policemen and an Air Force representative who said he would report Derenberger's account either to Washington or the UFO investigative center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Derenberger said the episode began when a "dark, long object" traveling about the same speed as his panel truck "cut in front of my vehicle and continued to travel at some distance sideways."

The object was charcoal gray in color, he said, "apparently made of some kind of metal and shaped something like an old kerosene lamp globe, having a flat bottom and a domelike top."

With no visible lights, it moved along "eight to 10 inches above the pavement, blocked the highway and finally stopped," he said.

Derenberger said the side of the UFO then opened and a "man" stepped out, approached his truck and told him to roll down the window.

In a "five-to-10-minute conversation," he said, the man communicated through "thought waves. or mental telepathy." Derenberger said his lips were closed in a fixed smile.

He described the "spaceman" as about six feet tall, 35 to 40 years old "by our standards" and about 185 pounds. He said the man had dark hair, a dark complexion and wore a "short topcoat, with trousers visible below the coat, and a shirt buttoned at the neck." His clothing was described as "blue and quite shiny, having a glistening effect."

Derenberger said the man described himself as a "searcher" and said his name was "Cold."

Derenberger said the "saucer," which had been hovering 50 to 75 feet above the highway then dropped down and another occupant reached to help his companion on board.

"The door closed, sounding much like a car door," the salesman said, and the UFO took off in a burst of "tremendous speed."

Derenberger said he hurried home, shaken, and called the police.

When asked about a possible return visit, he said "I think they will, but I hope they don't."

75

Above: From Army newspaper, "Stars and Stripes," Nov., '66; Below: From "Reading Times," Reading, Pa., Nov. 18, '66.

More People Report Seeing Bird-Like Creature

Point Pleasant, W. Va. (UPI) —The mystery of the flying "whatever it was" continued here Thursday.

Four more people reported seeing a huge bird-like creature with red eyes. And in Doddridge County, more than 100 miles to the north, a farmer feels his German shepherd was dognapped by the thing.

Mason County sheriff George Johnson said he does not discount the stories of Steve Mallette and Roger Scarberry and their wives. All four swear they saw the creature three times late Tuesday and early Wednesday near an abandoned power plant five miles north of here.

Raymond Wamsley and his wife, Marcella Bennett and Ricky Thomas told Johnson they saw it too, in the same general area.

Johnson says he feels whatever everyone saw was nothing more than a "freak shitepoke," a large bird of the heron family. The shitepoke or shag as it is sometimes known is the smallest heron in the Western Hemisphere.

No one, however, could explain how a shag or similar large bird could fly 100 m.p.h. as Scarberry and Mallette said the one they saw did. All four said they would take lie detector tests.

At a farm in Doddridge County near the Harrison County community of Salem, contractor Newell Partridge said he saw something with eyes like "red reflectors" in a meadow near his home. He sighted his "thing" about 90 minutes before the Point Pleasant incident.

Partridge said his television set began acting up, "sounding like a generator," and his $350 German shepherd, Bandit, started "carrying on something terrible."

After the dog had howled for some time Partridge said he opened the door and shined a flashlight into the field where the "reflectors" were seen.

The dog's hair stood straight up, Partridge said, and the animal then went after the reflectors. The dog never returned and no trace of it was found.

Partridge and his wife said the dog had never stayed away from home for more than 15 minutes in the last three years.

Talked With Occupant

Parkersburg Man Tells Of "Saucer" Experience

PARKERSBURG, W. Va. (UPI) — Woodrow Derenberger says he saw a flying saucer, and that's not all—he engaged in conversation with an occupant of the "saucer" and expects to see the mysterious stranger again.

Derenberger, a local salesman, said he didn't believe in flying saucers until his alleged encounter with one about 7:25 p.m. Wednesday.

A vivid description of the unidentified flying object and its occupant was related by Derenberger Thursday in an interview with WTAP-TV news director Glen Wilson.

"I think they will, but I hope they don't," Durenberger said of the chances the "spaceman" and his companion might fulfill a promise to make contact with him again.

State and local police, and a representative of the Air Force recruiting station were present for the news conference. Officers said it was apparent that Derenberger "had some sort of experience."

Derenberger said it all started shortly before 7:30 p.m., while he was driving home to Parkersburg from Marietta, Ohio, on Interstate 77.

As he approached the W. Va. 47 interchange, Derenberger said a "dark", long object" traveling about the same speed as his panel truck "cut in front of my vehicle and continued to travel at some distance sideways.

Derenberger described the objict as being dark, charcoal grey. "apparently made of some kind of metal and shaped something like an old kerosene lamp globe, having a flat bottom and a domelike top."

There was no visible lights, and the object emitted a "fluttering, soft noise" as it moved along "eight to 10 inches above the pavement, blocked the highway and finally stopped."

From this point, Derenberger said:

A door in the side of the UFO opened, much like a car door, and a "man" stepped out. The man approached Derenberger's truck, and told him to roll down the window.

During the following "five to 10 minute conversation," the saucer occupant communicated with Derenberger through "thought waves or mental telepathy," his lips were closed and he smiled constantly.

The occupant was described as being six feet tall, 35 to 40 years old "by our standards," 185 pounds, with dark hair slicked back, and a dark complexion.

He was wearing a "short topcoat, with trousers visible below the coat, and a shirt buttoned at the neck. His clothing was "blue and quite shiny, having a glistening effect."

"Have no fear, we come from a country that is not nearly as powerful as yours," the intruder said. "We mean you no harm."

Derenberger said the man described himself as a "searcher" and said his name was "Cold."

Derenberger said the 'saucer,' which had been hovering 50 to 75 feet above the highway then dropped down and another oc-

(Continued on Page 7)

Scientists to Replace AF in Probing UFOs

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (UPI) The Air Force hopes to rid itself of the controversial job of investigation of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

An Air Force spokesman said Saturday organization of a group of college scientists to make such investigations hopefully will be completed before the end of this year.

Plans to set up a scientific advisory group composed of the university scientists from throughout the nation, were announced earlier this year.

The spokesman said that a grant of about $300,000 from Air Force funds will be made for the project, which is expected to start in September or October.

One leading university will be selected as a headquarters for the project but "several other universities throughout the nation will work with the project, funneling information into the headquarters university, the spokesman said. The universities have not been selected as yet.

The plan would remove the Air Force from active investigation of UFO sightings. Such investigations have been carried out in the Air Force's "Operation Blue Book," headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Field in Dayton, Ohio.

TALKED WITH

(Continued From Page 1)

cupant reached to help his companion on board.

"The door closed, sounding much like a car door," the salesman said, and the UFO took off in a burst of "tremendous speed."

Derenberger said he hurried home, shaken, and called the police.

When asked about a possible return visit, he said "I think they will, but I hope they don't.

Texans Say 'Little Green Men' Invaded Lone Star State First

Houston (AP) — Yellowed newspaper clippings tell of a series of sightings across Texas in 1897 of the "mysterious airship."

They add up to what might be called:

The "Great Airship Flap." of 1897.

Some of the accounts resemble accounts nowadays of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Consider this report from the 1897 Houston Daily Post:

"Childress, Texas, April 17 — The much talked-of airship was seen here last night about 1:16 o'clock. The Rev. J. W. Smith was the first to discover the curious aerial monster.

"He thought at first that it was a star shooting, but after watching it a moment or two, saw that it was not . . .

"It soon disappeared, traveling in a westerly direction. The Rev. Smith thinks that it must have been 2,000 feet high and traveling very fast."

Or this one:

Longview, Tex., April 20 — Last night about 9:30, the Post correspondent and family, on returning from church, saw the so-called airship.

"A bright light, seemingly about the size of Venus, moved swiftly to the northwest, disappearing beneath the horizon.

"In a few minutes, it reappeared . . . The light emitted a series of intermittent flashes, of a steel color. No car (cabin) was seen."

Here's another:

"Atlanta, Tex., April 19 — There was considerable excitement here today, caused by a visitation last night by the mysterious airship.

"It was first seen by Jim Nelson, a farmer . . . His attention was attracted by a peculiar noise and, looking up, he discovered the mysterious aerial traveler.

"It seemed to be descending straight to the earth with great rapidity and Mr. Nelson's hair stood out with fright.

"But within two or three hundred feet of the earth, it paused for an instant . . . then moved off at a rate of speed about equal to that of an ordinary passenger train."

The Atlanta dispatch says the airship was seen by other citizens when it sailed over the city at 5 to 15 miles an hour. Most described it as cigar-shape, and some said it had long wings on either side.

A light could be seen protruding from several windows; one bright light in front like the headlight of a locomotive.

"After some 10 minutes, a man was seen descending the rope; he came near enough to be plainly seen; he wore a light blue sailor suit, was small in size.

"He stopped when he discovered parties at the anchor and cut the rope below him and sailed off in the northeast direction.

"The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliott & Miller and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

Another bizarre account was found in the April 19, 1897, edition of the Dallas Morning News:

"Aurora, Wise County, April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country . . .

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town, collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the Planet Mars . . .

"Papers found . . . are written in some unknown hieroglyphics . . . This ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power . . .

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

Stories of the Atlanta incident became succeedingly absurd. Some viewers claimed to have talked with the airship's crewmen. One said the pilot told him, "We will be in Greece day after tomorrow."

Another man said he detected three men on board passing out temperance tracts and singing, "Nearer My God to Thee."

About a week later came this report in the Houston Daily Post of April 28, 1897.

"Merkel, Tex., April 26—Some parties returning from church last night noticed a heavy object dragging along with a rope attached.

"They followed it until in crossing the railroad it caught on a rail. On looking up they saw what they supposed was the airship.

"It was not near enough to get an idea of the dimensions.

Aug-26/66 eFO Sanfrancisco

JFO Report Complicates Rio Mystery

RIO DE JANEIRO—(UPI)—The most veteran detective inspctor Jose Venancio Bittencourt could muster today was a wan smile.

Compounding what he called "the best mystery in my 23 years on the force" was a flying saucer.

"Station zero," said Bittencourt in a candid summation of the progress of his six-day investigation into the so-called "mask murder" case.

Bittencourt was trying to determine what happened to two electronics repairmen in their 30s who climbed 1000 feet up a hillside in the Rio suburb of Niteroi last week and died there.

Crude lead masks covered their eyes.

The case smacked of espionage, of smuggling, of the supernatural.

CLUES GALORE

There were clues galore — all of them bizarre, none comprehensible.

"There was no medical reason, within the ability of the state police lab to detect, for the deaths," Bittencourt said.

Bittencourt said exhaustive tests had ruled out poison, violence or aspyxiation as the cause of death.

Further tests will be made today by laboratories in Rio, across Guanabara Bay from Niteroi, he said.

IN A CLEARING

The men were found lying in a clearing on the jungled hillside Saturday after a woman living nearby told police she had seen a luminous object on the hillside.

Police combing the rugged hillside for the object found the bodies.

"She said it was a Flying Saucer," said Bittencourt, tweeking his grey mustache.

Police said the masks found on the bodies were made by one of the victims in Campos, a city 130 miles northeast of Rio where both lived.

CHARTS, CODE

Police found undecipherable coded messages, electrical charts, simple mathematical formulas, a lady's handkerchief, raincoat, sunglasses, a toothbrush and two notes.

One note read:

"At 4:30 p.m. we are in the determined place. At 6:30 we will take the capsules with orange. After the effect, protect half the face with lead masks. Wait for agreed signal."

The second note:

"Sunday: One capsule before meal; Monday, one capsule in the morning; Tuesday, one capsule before meal; Wednesday, one capsule on lying down."

The coroner's report said he men died Wednesday, Aug. 17.

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